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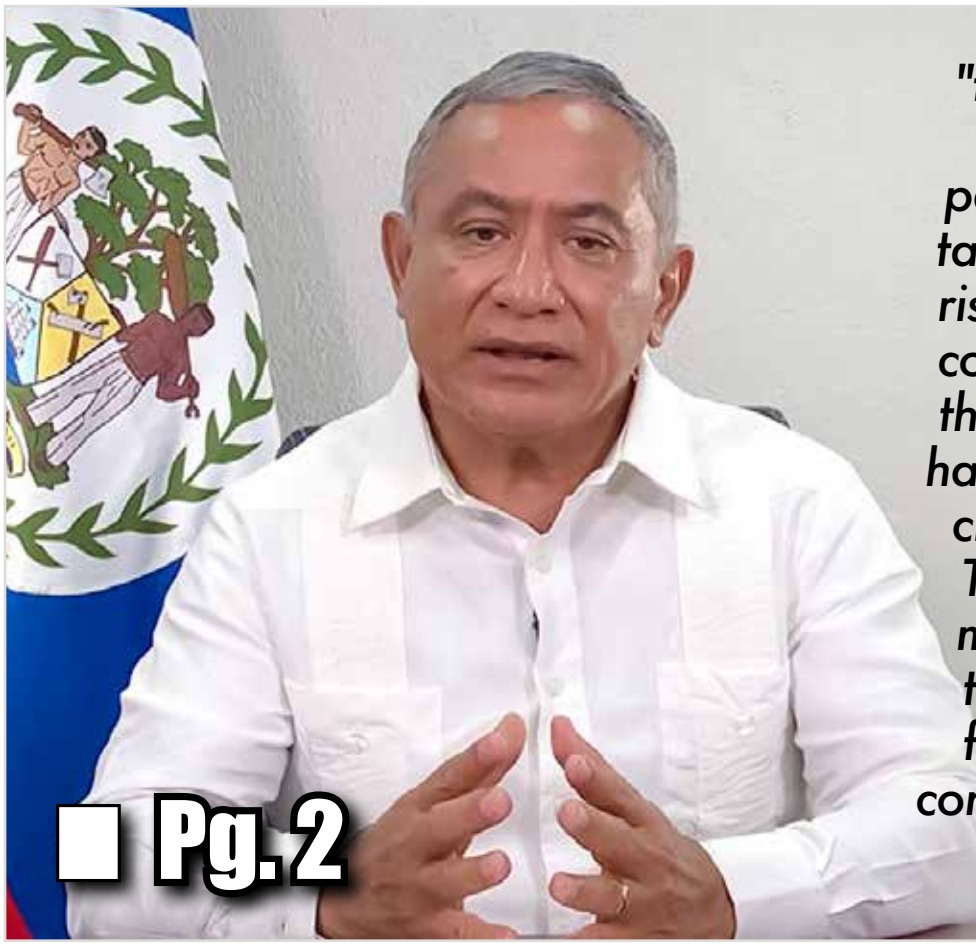
$1.5M AGREEMENT

Gov't & BBA Sign on Subsidy & Fare Adjustment



■ Pg.2

"the price we pay at the pump. When the acquisition cost of fuel rises, – the price paid by PUMA and its suppliers–the excise tax collected by the government does NOT rise. This is a fixed amount..., the excise tax collected, has been significantly reduced.... the excise tax charged on regular gasoline has been cut by 68 cents, and the excise tax charged on diesel has been cut by $1.55. These two tax reductions amount to $4.7 million/month, or a projected $60 million this budget year. ... if the acquisition cost for fuel continues to rise, the Cabinet will consider further adjustments." **- PM Briceño**

National Address excerpts (Pg 7)

ECLAC Projects Belize to Grow 1.5% in 2025 and 2.5 in 2026
Global Forum Peer Review: Belize "Largely Compliant"

■ Inside

BTB hosts CTO's STC

Tourism in Full Color

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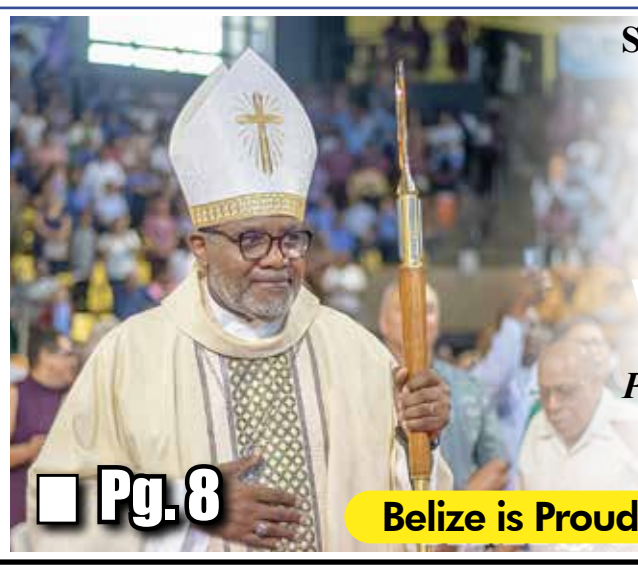

Service of Recognition

Most Revd. Philip Wright

Primate of the Church of the Province of West Indies

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Belize is Proud of Bishop Wright

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NATIONAL ID BILL

Countrywide Consultations

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YABRA FISH MARKET

CELEBRATE A HAPPY LABOUR DAY AT THE 'AGRIC' IN BELMOPAN

$1.5M AGREEMENT

FUEL SUBSIDY AND BUS FARE ADJUSTMENT AGREEMENT

This Agreement is made and entered into on this 29th day of April, 2026 ("Effective Date")

BETWEEN:

The Government of Belize, acting through the Ministry responsible for Transport (hereinafter

referred to as the "Government")

AND

The Belize Bus Association, a duly recognized bus operators' association operating within Belize

(hereinafter referred to as the "Association").

The Government and the Association are hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Parties".

---

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this Agreement is to:

(a) provide a targeted subsidy to alleviate the impact of rising fuel costs on public bus

operators; and (b) authorize a controlled increase in bus fares to ensure the continued sustainability and reliability of public transportation services throughout Belize.

2. FUEL SUBSIDY

2.1 The Government agrees to provide the Association and individual bus operators in Belize with a fuel subsidy in the amount of Three Belize Dollars (BZD $3.00) per gallon of diesel fuel

purchased for use in eligible public service buses operated by members of the Association and

other individual operators. Attached hereto marked Annex A (Highway Runs) Annex B (Village

Runs and Annex C (City Runs.

2.2 The subsidy shall apply only to:

(a) buses duly licensed to operate public passenger transport services; and

(b) fuel purchased for the exclusive purpose of providing authorized bus services.

2.3 The subsidy shall be administered in accordance with procedures established by the Government, which may include:

(a) submission of fuel receipts; (b) verification of bus licenses and routes; and (c) periodic reporting requirements.

2.4 The Government reserves the right to audit, verify, or otherwise monitor subsidy claims to

prevent misuse or abuse.

3. BUS FARE ADJUSTMENT

3.1 In consideration of the fuel subsidy provided under this Agreement, the Association agrees to

implement a uniform bus fare increase of not more than one Belize Dollar (BZD $1.00) and

S0.50 for short stop per passenger. Attached hereto marked Annex D is the agreed price list.

3.2 The fare increase shall take effect on May 4, 2026, and shall apply to all regular routes operated by members of the Association and other bus operators, unless otherwise exempted by the

Government.

3.3 No additional fare increases shall be implemented by the Association, its members or other bus

operators during the term of this Agreement without the prior written approval of the Government.

4. OBLIGATIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION AND OTHER BUS OPERATORS

4.1 The Association and all other bus operators shall ensure that its members:

(a) comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and transport licensing requirements;

(b) pass the benefits of the fuel subsidy toward maintaining service levels, route

coverage, and reasonable fare stability; (c) clearly display the approved fare structure inside buses; and (d) refrain from imposing unauthorized charges on passengers.

4.2 The Association and other bus operators shall cooperate fully with any monitoring, review, or

evaluation conducted by the Government.

4.3 The Association and other bus operators shall submit their request for Fuel Subsidy every

Monday by 3:00 p.m., to the Chief Transport Officer which shall be accompanied by the following;

i Route | ii Fuel Cost which shall include:

a. Name of Operator | b. Licence Plate of the Bus | c. Name of Fuel Station | d. Amount of Fuel

e. Cost of Fuel | f. Stamp of the Gas Station

5. TERM AND REVIEW

5.1 This Agreement with respect to the fuel subsidy shall commence on the May 4, 2026, and shall

remain in force for an initial period of three (3) months.

5.2 With respect to the price increase, it shall remain in force until another price adjustment is

approved by Cabinet.

5.2 The Parties agree to review the effectiveness of the subsidy and fare adjustment prior to the

expiration of the term and may renegotiate terms based on:

(a) fuel price trends; (b) economic conditions; and (c) public transportation needs.

6. TERMINATION

6.1 This agreement shall be terminated based on effluxion of time (August 4, 2026).

Editor: The above and some more legal terminology was Duly signed on 29th day of April 2026.

Resolving Problems Getting Things Done!

The current situation in the public transportation sector and the government's management of it is a teachable moment and a case study in how to achieve overall public good through political will and innovation while respecting and incorporating the concerns and interests of all stakeholders.

One thing for sure, there had to be major changes in the public transportation sector. The chaotic, unreliable and unsatisfactory state of service was untenable. So, the Ministry of Transport, under the leadership of Hon. Dr. Louis Zabaneh, embarked on the bold, ambitious mission to upgrade the public transportation system through consolidation and the establishment of the National Bus Company (NBC) which invited all existing operators to join. The economies of scale thus altered would allow for greater investment in the sector to provide upgraded services at affordable cost and in a more structured and sustainable manner.

A good number of bus operators, particularly in the South and West of the country eventually got on board and the transformation got underway. But, as it is with all revolutionary undertakings, there would be challenges, and no one had any illusions to the contrary. So, this past week, things came to a head between the Ministry of Transport and those operators remaining under the banner of the Belize Bus Association (BBA).

The situation was of course aggravated by the rising cost of fuel, a previously unanticipated factor brought on by protracted geopolitical conflict, particularly the Iran War which is having an inflationary effect on the cost of oil and fuel worldwide.

The BBA initially sought to arbitrarily raise bus fares on commuters, which they have no authority to do. Then they demanded that the government approve their proposed increases. For obvious reasons, the government was hesitant to do so, not wanting to overburden commuters. With the sustained demands and threats from the BBA, the government eventually agreed to a modest adjustment in order to preserve stability in the public transportation system, an essential component of the economy and life of the nation.

The National Bus Company (NBC), already benefitting from the altered economies of scale enhanced by consolidation, announced it would NOT implement any increase in its fares to commuters. That was followed by an about turn by the BBA operators who changed their minds about the adjustment in fares for which they themselves had fought.

Their new position was to demand fuel subsidies from the government. So the government reversed the adjustment in fares and agreed to offer the fuel subsidy they were now requesting, the details of which would be forthcoming. The BBA nevertheless proceeded with protest action, including suspending their bus runs and blocking the highway in the north.

Notwithstanding, the government maintained its goodwill and eventually forged an understanding with the BBA to restore normalcy and hammer out a workable agreement including a minimal fare adjustment combined with significant fuel subsidies.

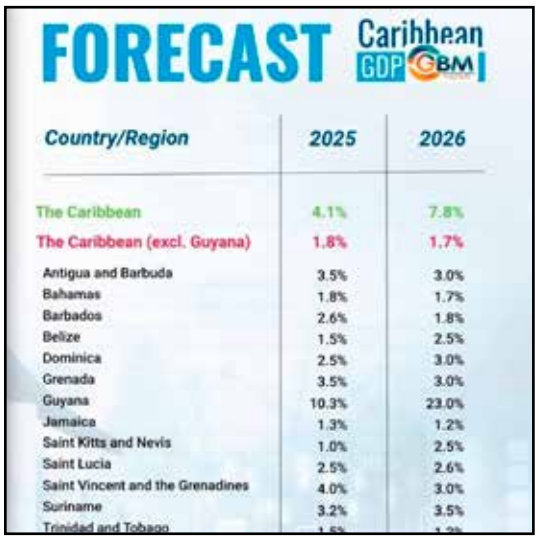
All of this was accomplished through direct interventions by the Prime Minister, his Deputy, designated representatives from the PM's office, the continued engagement by the Ministry of Transport, and the collective wisdom and support of the Cabinet.

And so, there is once again harmony in the public transportation sector, while plans move ahead for the overall upgrade of services to commuters for the general good of the Belize economy and the life of the nation.

This is a government that solves problems and gets things done, and this is a classic case of how it is done!

ECLAC Projects Belize to Grow 1.5% in 2025 and 2.5 in 2026

Even as the Caribbean subregion (excluding Guyana) is set to drop from 1.8% in 2025 to 1.7% in 2026 Belize is forecast to grow. ECLAC forecasts that Caribbean economic growth will decelerate to 1.7% in 2026 (excluding Guyana), down from previous years, driven by weaker tourism demand, high energy/transport costs, and global uncertainty. Guyana leads with 16.3% projected growth in 2026, while tourism-dependent economies face modest growth (e.g., Bahamas 2.2%, Jamaica -1.0% contraction). **(Credit to Channel 5 for graphic)**



The Belize Times

serving Belize since 1957 as the longest continuous newspaper.

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EDITORIAL

PUBLIC & BANK CELEBRATION OF LABOUR DAY

Even as times change, Belize's traditions are steadfast and evolve naturally. Such is the case with Labour Day. Its celebration or observance arose right along the birth of the nation, in the 1950's and 60s. The day was nascent in the annual celebration of workers who toiled day in and day out as they built Belize away from British Honduras. In 1962, the motion for a Public and Bank Holiday was presented in the House of Representatives; the Commonwealth then added another nation observing May 1 as Labour Day. While some holidays are moved to Monday or Friday, Labour Day, like New Year's, Independence Day and Christmas, cannot be moved. The festivities at Labour Day have included marches, rallies, parties, luncheons, sports, horse races and more. Belize is comparably small, united yet diverse in the variety of activities at Labour Day.

The day recognises the contribution of workers in building Belize's economy via infrastructure, agriculture, construction, vocation, private and public service, and more. Workers have sought better pay and higher-paying jobs since the 1930s. Union Leader Antonio Soberanis Gómez at that time led the Labourers and Unemployed Association, which organised labour strikes, boycotts, and demonstrations in the face of British government crackdowns. Tony, as he was known, was arrested and charged for his activism on multiple occasions. Despite this, he continued to openly criticise colonial officials, members of the merchant class, and other elites for the injustices faced by labourers. The LUA group brought about some positive changes. They succeeded in raising wages for some workers, increasing employment through government public initiative programs, and achieving greater political representation. Today, we take an eight-hour day, a forty-five-hour week, time-and-a-half, and even the term Public & Bank holidays for granted, but these are rooted in the Labour movement's struggles. Today, we work with all the effort and still enjoy time away from that same work.

May 1 honours the strength, perseverance, and dedication of the Belizean workforce across all sectors, including factories, farms, offices, hotels, domestic work, BPO on-site or at home, online tasks like blogging, social media content creation, cryptocurrency, and more. Belize's still-young economy is just at the stage of the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Bill. The OSH bill's passage into law is crucial for workers' peace of mind and their families. The UDP first presented an iteration of the OSH bill to the House of Representatives in 2014, but UDP corruption, scandals, and priorities kept it shelved. The PUP, the party born from labour unions, has passed it in the Lower House, and it is now in the Senate. In the Senate, we can argue it is being held back by details that the Government side deems important. The UDP are happy not to pass it, as the government that passes the OSH bill goes down in highly significant history of the labour movement.

The proposed OSH legislation aims to modernise Belize's workplace safety framework by establishing a National Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Committee and an Occupational Safety and Health Inspectorate. It also sets out duties and obligations for employers, workers, self-employed persons, manufacturers, suppliers, installers and inspectors, while repealing the long-standing Factories Act. It extends occupational protections beyond factories to all workplaces nationwide, introducing clearer standards and stronger enforcement mechanisms to safeguard workers. Support for the OSH is based on the importance of prevention, enforcement, and accountability in protecting workers and reducing pressure on the healthcare system.

Belize's formal workforce is approximately 195,000 workers, and the government is today seeking to increase this figure through job diversification, preparing persons who are not currently interested in a job for varied personal reasons, and, of course, a vibrant education system. The 35 thousand working in the tourism sector, 30 thousand in the Agriculture sector, 24 thousand in the still growing BPO sector, the 15 thousand paid by the government, and the rest employed in hundreds of MSME businesses are in need of more workers. Only anti-progress-for-Belize UDPs scorn at these numbers, which point to plan-Belize's success. The small 2 per cent unemployed number is just one of the economic markers that blare to the world that Belize has a booming economy.

There is a lot to celebrate this May 1, 2026. The people have achieved a lot, led by PM John Briceño, who is still looking to eradicate poverty in the jewel. This week's Tourism Conference and the National Agriculture and Trade Show are set at the right time. The former will discuss the region's new direction and best practices at this time, and the latter will showcase the labour of the Agricultural sector. Neither could be calendared at a more appropriate time. To all of us, a Happy Labour Day. Celebrate it at the Belmopan Showgrounds.

en Español

DÍA DEL TRABAJO: DÍA FESTIVO OFICIAL Y BANCARIO

Aunque los tiempos cambian, las tradiciones de Belice se mantienen firmes y evolucionan de forma natural. Tal es el caso del Día del Trabajo. Su celebración o conmemoración surgió con el nacimiento de la nación, en las décadas de 1950 y 1960. Este día tuvo su origen en la celebración anual de los trabajadores que se esforzaban día tras día por construir Belice, alejándose de lo que entonces era Honduras Británica. En 1962, se presentó en la Cámara de Representantes la moción para convertirlo en festivo público y bancario; la Commonwealth añadió entonces a otra nación que celebraba el 1 de mayo como Día del Trabajo. Mientras que algunos festivos se trasladan al lunes o al viernes, el Día del Trabajo, al igual que Año Nuevo, el Día de la Independencia y Navidad, no se puede cambiar de fecha. Las festividades del Día del Trabajo han incluido marchas, mítines, fiestas, almuerzos, deportes, carreras de caballos y mucho más. Belice es un país relativamente pequeño, unido pero diverso en cuanto a las actividades que ofrece en el Día del Trabajo.

Este día reconoce la contribución de los trabajadores a la construcción de la economía de Belice a través de las infraestructuras, la agricultura, la construcción, la formación profesional, los servicios públicos y privados, y mucho más. Los trabajadores llevan buscando mejores salarios y empleos mejor remunerados desde la década de 1930. El líder sindical Antonio Soberanis Gómez dirigía en aquella época la Asociación de Trabajadores y Desempleados, que organizaba huelgas, boicots y manifestaciones frente a la represión del gobierno británico. Tony, como se le conocía, fue detenido y acusado en repetidas ocasiones por su activismo. A pesar de ello, siguió criticando abiertamente a los funcionarios coloniales, a los miembros de la clase mercantil y a otras élites por las injusticias que sufrían los trabajadores. El grupo de la LUA logró algunos cambios positivos. Consiguieron aumentar los salarios de algunos trabajadores, incrementar el empleo mediante programas de iniciativa pública del gobierno y lograr una mayor representación política. Hoy en día, damos por sentadas la jornada de ocho horas, la semana de cuarenta y cinco horas, el pago de horas extras y hasta el concepto de días festivos y festivos bancarios, pero todo ello tiene su origen en las luchas del movimiento obrero. Hoy trabajamos con todo nuestro esfuerzo y, aun así, disfrutamos de tiempo libre lejos de ese mismo trabajo.

El 1 de mayo rinde homenaje a la fuerza, la perseverancia y la dedicación de la mano de obra beliceña en todos los sectores, incluyendo fábricas, granjas, oficinas, hoteles, trabajo doméstico, BPO in situ o desde casa, tareas en línea como blogs, creación de contenido para redes sociales, criptomonedas y más. La economía de Belice, aún joven, se encuentra en la fase inicial del proyecto de ley de Seguridad y Salud en el Trabajo (OSH). La aprobación del proyecto de ley de SST es crucial para la tranquilidad de los trabajadores y sus familias. El UDP presentó por primera vez una versión del proyecto de ley de SST a la Cámara de Representantes en 2014, pero la corrupción, los escándalos y las prioridades del UDP lo mantuvieron archivado. El PUP, el partido surgido de los sindicatos, la ha aprobado en la Cámara Baja y ahora está en el Senado. En el Senado, se puede argumentar que está siendo frenada por detalles que el Gobierno considera importantes. El UDP se alegra de que no se apruebe, ya que el gobierno que apruebe el proyecto de ley de SST pasará a la historia del movimiento sindical como un hito de gran importancia.

La legislación propuesta en materia de SST tiene por objeto modernizar el marco de seguridad y salud en el trabajo de Belice mediante la creación de un Comité Consultivo Nacional de Seguridad y Salud en el Trabajo y de una Inspección de Seguridad y Salud en el Trabajo. También establece deberes y obligaciones para los empleadores, los trabajadores, los autónomos, los fabricantes, los proveedores, los instaladores y los inspectores, y deroga la antigua Ley de Fábricas. Amplía las protecciones laborales más allá de las fábricas a todos los lugares de trabajo del país, introduciendo normas más claras y mecanismos de aplicación más estrictos para salvaguardar a los trabajadores. El apoyo a la SST se basa en la importancia de la prevención, la aplicación de la ley y la rendición de cuentas para proteger a los trabajadores y reducir la presión sobre el sistema sanitario.

La población activa formal de Belice es de aproximadamente 195 000 trabajadores, y el Gobierno busca hoy aumentar esta cifra mediante la diversificación del empleo, la preparación de personas que actualmente no están interesadas en un trabajo por diversas razones personales y, por supuesto, mediante un sistema educativo dinámico. Los 35 000 que trabajan en el sector turístico, los 30 000 en el sector agrícola, los 24 000 en el sector de la externalización de procesos de negocio (BPO), que sigue creciendo, los 15 000 asalariados del gobierno y el resto de empleados en cientos de micro, pequeñas y medianas empresas (MIPYMES) necesitan más mano de obra. Solo los miembros del UDP, contrarios al progreso de Belice, desprecian estas cifras que evidencian el éxito de planBelice. La baja tasa de desempleo del 2 % es solo uno de los indicadores económicos que proclaman al mundo que Belice tiene una economía en auge.

Hay mucho que celebrar este 1 de mayo de 2026. El pueblo ha logrado mucho, liderado por el primer ministro John Briceño, quien sigue buscando erradicar la pobreza en esta joya. La Conferencia de Turismo y la Feria Nacional de Agricultura y Comercio de esta semana se celebran en el momento oportuno. La primera abordará la nueva dirección de la región y las mejores prácticas actuales, y la segunda presentará el trabajo del sector agrícola. Ninguna de ellas podría haberse programado en un momento más oportuno. A todos nosotros, feliz Día del Trabajo. Celebra en el recinto ferial de Belmopán.

The City of Belmopan
THE WORKS CONTINUE ENDLESSLY

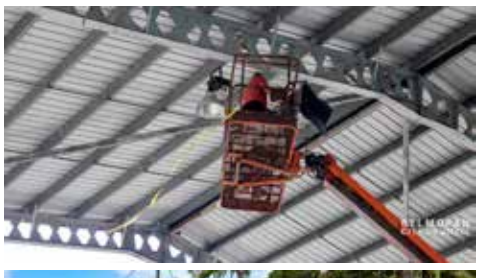
Mayor Cawich and Team

First time Mayor Pablo Cawich has dispelled the myth that rookies cannot be the most valuable. He is right on the thick of vying for best Mayor in the country. This is a debate that has all eight of our PUP Mayors with solid argument. The strength of the Mayor is derived from his ability to work with the Belmopanese as he leads the elected Councilors.

The 2024–2027 team (PUP) serving the citizens of our Capital city along with Mayor Cawich are Deputy Mayor: Christopher "Chris" Enriquez, Councillor Radin Santos, Councillor Florita Botes, Councillor Lawrence Tush, Councillor Coretta Banner, and Councillor Sanie Cal.

Infrastructure

New roads are being created while the existing drains and roads are in constant upgrade. This is a major part of their efforts which are destined to improve the quality of movement and life of the citizens of Belmopan. They even work at night.



Collaboration w/ Hon. Oscar Mira & Central GoB

Events and Awareness

BTB hosts CTO's STC

Tourism in Full Color

SAN PEDRO, Ambergris Caye, April 28, 2026 — The Caribbean Tourism Organization's Sustainable Tourism Conference 2026 was underway up to press time, bringing together regional leaders, innovators, and stakeholders to chart a new path for the industry. Held from April 27 to 30 under the theme "Tourism in Full Color," the conference had already drawn more than 300 participants and over 60 speakers, all focused on shaping a more resilient, inclusive, and regenerative future for Caribbean tourism.

The opening ceremony set a powerful tone, blending culture and purpose. The Wabagari Drummers captivated the audience with a moving rendition of "Our Father," grounding the event in tradition while signaling the importance of cultural identity in tourism development. From the start, delegates were reminded that the Caribbean's greatest strength lies in its people, heritage, and natural resources.

Delivering the keynote address, Dame Pania Tyson-Nathan, Chief Executive of New Zealand Māori Tourism, emphasized that tourism must be rooted in people, culture, and place rather than profit alone. Stating, "The 'color economies' are not separate programs but a connected system." She cautioned that fragmented approaches could limit long-term impact. Drawing from Māori experiences, she urged a shift from "commercializing culture to culturalizing commerce," encouraging destinations to value their cultural assets fully.

Minister of Tourism, Youth, Sports and Diaspora Relations, Hon. Anthony Mahler, joined Barbados Minister of Tourism Ian Gooding-Edghill and Belize's Director of Tourism Evan Tillett in delivering one bold message on the need for sustainable growth. Their stance underscored that the Caribbean must move beyond traditional models and adopt strategies that prioritize resilience and inclusivity. As discussions unfolded, the emphasis remained clear: tourism must deliver tangible benefits to communities while safeguarding environmental and cultural resources.

Nicole Usher Solano, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of Tourism, noted that the success of the conference would ultimately depend on what happens beyond the discussions. "The true impact of the conference will be measured by the partnerships built and the decisions taken beyond the room," she said.

Throughout the sessions, delegates explored the interconnected "color economies," each representing a critical pillar of sustainable tourism. In discussions on the blue economy, speakers highlighted the urgent need to balance economic opportunity with environmental protection. Panelist K. Denaye Hinds emphasized community involvement, stating that stakeholders must be treated as "co-creators and stewards" of marine resources. Dr. Maya Trotz of the University of South Florida added that innovation and education would be key in protecting ecosystems while sustaining tourism growth.

The green economy sessions shifted focus to implementation, with panelists stressing that policy alone is not enough. Dr.

Continued on page 11

NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER 6/2026

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be $67,408,200.00.

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository (CSD) of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of $200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Wednesday, 13 May 2026 and will be redeemed on Wednesday, 12 August 2026.

Each tender must be for $200 or a multiple of $200. Bid yields must be submitted to five decimal places.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically to bids@centralbank.org.bz or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 8 May 2026.

The auction in the CSD will be opened from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Wednesday, 13 May 2026.

Successful bidders should arrange to settle via the Automated Payment & Securities Settlement System of Belize (APSSS).

Bank: Central Bank of Belize
Account: GLICORP0402627

The Government of Belize reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all tenders in whole or in part.

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website (www.centralbank.org.bz)

22 April 2026

BHSFU BLUE BOND Belize Fund For A Sustainable Future

Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit
Office of the Prime Minister
Belize City, Belize

CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITY

Individual Consultancy for a Case Study on the Implementation of the Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) for Belize's High Seas Fishing Vessels

The Blue Bond and Finance Permanence (BBFP) Unit within the Office of the Prime Minister, invites qualified individual consultants to submit proposals for a consultancy for a Case Study on the Implementation of the Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) for Belize's High Seas Fishing Vessels.

The objective of this consultancy is to conduct a comprehensive case study on the implementation of the EMP onboard Belize's high seas fishing vessels.

SPECIFIC TASKS INCLUDE:

- Conduct literature review of relevant policies, frameworks, and EMS implementation in Belize and globally.
- Engage stakeholders through interviews to gather insights on EMS implementation, operation, challenges, and compliance.
- Collect and analyze data to assess EMS effectiveness, identify challenges, and evaluate impacts on compliance and fisheries management.
- Conduct a comparative analysis of Belize's EMS implementation against international initiatives, highlighting best practices and lessons learned.
- Develop and present a comprehensive EMS case study highlighting background, findings, challenges, and recommendations.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE OF CONSULTANT:

- Postgraduate degree in fisheries, marine conservation, environmental science, policy analysis, research, communications, or related field.
- At least 5 years' demonstrated experience in fisheries governance, compliance monitoring, marine conservation, research, communications, or related field.
- Proven experience conducting at least two similar assignments (e.g., case studies, policy analyses, impact assessments).
- Demonstrated experience working with government, fisheries, or international organizations.
- Strong analytical and report-writing skills, with at least one relevant report or publication.

Duration: Three (3) months
Extended Submission Deadline: May 15, 2026, by 10:00 am (BZ Time)

Full Terms of Reference is available at: www.bhsfu.gov.bz/opportunities
Only proposals submitted in accordance with the official ToR will be considered.
Only shortlisted consultants will be contacted.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Gef 6: Integrated management of production landscapes to deliver multiple global environmental benefits, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management

Communications Specialist

A. Background

The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management (MSDCCDRM) is dedicated to leading Belize toward a socio-ecologically resilient future through the wise management of human and natural capital. To support this mission and the implementation of the GEF 6 project, the Ministry is seeking a **Communications Specialist**. This role is pivotal in developing a cohesive communication strategy to increase visibility, engage the public, and inform stakeholders on progress regarding sustainable development and climate resiliency.

B. Application Process

Qualified and interested persons are to submit:

- a) A signed cover letter outlining suitability for the position.
- b) A detailed Curriculum Vitae or Resume with full details of experience, achievements, qualifications, and copies of degrees and certifications.
- c) Two (2) recent professional reference letters with contact details.

Applications should be identified as — **"Application for Communications Specialist – *Your name*"** in the subject matter of the email. All applications must be submitted in one **PDF file** via email to:

Judene Tingling Linares
Project Director
Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management
7552 Hummingbird Highway City of Belmopan, Cayo District

Email : coord.pppu@environment.gov.bz
CC : pm.gef6@environment.gov.bz

Deadline: Applications must be received no later than **May 8th, 2026**. Late submissions will not be considered.

SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO ACCESS THE FULL TOR AND ITS LIST OF QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

BWS

Request for Bids (RFB)

Water Supply & Modernization Program

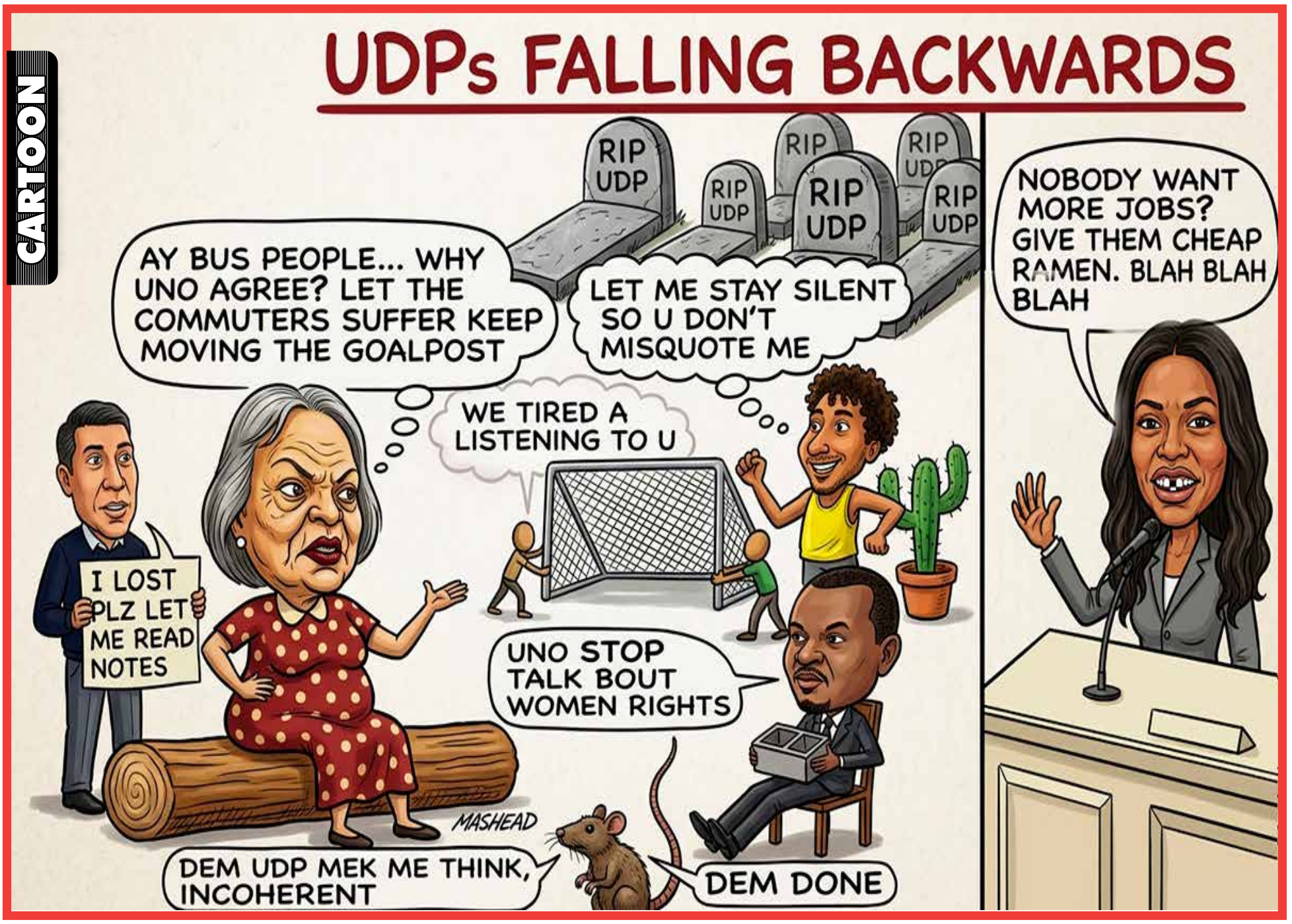
BL-L1043

Construction (Supply & Install) of 100k US Gallon Concrete Clear Well

1. This RFB follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project publicized as of *13th April 2026.*
2. Belize Water Services Limited has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of Water Supply & Modernization Program and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the Contract for *Construction (Supply & Install) of 100k US Gallon Concrete Clear Well.*
3. The *Belize Water Services Limited* now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for *Construction (Supply & Install) of 100k US Gallon Concrete Clear Well* at the **Dangriga WTP**. The delivery/construction period is *365 days from Start Date as specified in ITB 5.4 (k).*
4. The RFB will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's *Policies for the Procurement of Goods and Works financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2349-15 and* is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the bidding document.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from *Belize Water Services Limited, Mr. Leonardo Folgarait, Procurement Specialist at rce@bwsl.com.bz*
6. Qualification requirements include: *copies of original documents defining the constitution, Power of Attorney, experience in works of similar nature and size for the past 5 years and other information as requested in the RFB document ITB 5.*
7. A complete set of the bidding document in English may be obtained by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below. The bidding document will be sent by email.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before *2:00 p.m. 20th May 2026.* Electronic bidding *"shall not"* be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically at *2:15 p.m. 20th May 2026* in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line.
9. All bids *"shall"* be accompanied by a *"Bid Security"* of *3% of bid price in BZE Dollars or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.*
10. The address referred to above is: *Mr. Leonardo Folgarait, Procurement Specialist, Belize Water Services Limited, 7 Central American Boulevard, Belize City, Belize C.A.*

BWS - Delivering Water and More...

CARTOON


UDPs FALLING BACKWARDS
RIP UDP
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RIP UDP
AY BUS PEOPLE... WHY UNO AGREE? LET THE COMMUTERS SUFFER KEEP MOVING THE GOALPOST
LET ME STAY SILENT SO U DON'T MISQUOTE ME
WE TIRED A LISTENING TO U
I LOST PLZ LET ME READ NOTES
UNO STOP TALK BOUT WOMEN RIGHTS
MASHEAD
DEM UDP MEK ME THINK, INCOHERENT
DEM DONE
NOBODY WANT MORE JOBS? GIVE THEM CHEAP RAMEN. BLAH BLAH BLAH

PRIME MINISTER JOHN BRICEÑO

ADDRESS TO THE NATION

April 27, 2026

My Fellow Belizeans,

I felt the need to speak directly with you as Belize and the world confront unprecedented challenges. In Government, as in your own household, there are some things that are beyond our control. Global conflicts, inflation, instability and variations to the international order are examples of grave issues that arise outside of direct control. Like you, I am deeply concerned by the recent developments in the Middle East. This week marks two months since this latest Middle East conflict commenced. Today, there is no end in sight, and we are not sure when normalcy will return.

Cabinet and I have been constantly reviewing the many areas where Belize, as a small, open economy, is vulnerable to the direct and indirect consequences of these hostilities, as well as to other global and regional developments. As we all know, Belize is vulnerable to these shocks; chief among them is our access to fuel and the price we pay for it.

Most concerning is our vulnerability to inflation, where the money we earn buys less of what we need. Even the IMF has said that Belize imports our inflation; in other words, certain price increases are imposed upon us, and all we can do is to manage our response in a way that is achievable and affordable. Every Belizean is negatively impacted by inflation.

In the last two months, world oil prices have surged by 76 percent, from about 60 US dollars to 105 US dollars per barrel. All this considered, let me assure you that there is no immediate threat to our fuel supply. While no buyer can be protected from what we see on the news every day about fuel supply, Belize's supply, currently estimated at some 5 million gallons per month, is so far assured.

Yes, there have been, and will continue to be, adjustments to the price at the pump and to the prices of certain products and services related to fuel costs. Let me address the issue of the price we pay at the pump. **When the acquisition cost of fuel rises, that is to say, the price paid by PUMA and its suppliers, the excise tax collected by the government does NOT rise. This is a fixed amount.** And this amount, the excise tax collected, has been significantly reduced by the government since the start of this crisis. In fact, the excise tax charged on regular gasoline has been cut by 68 cents, and the excise tax charged on diesel has been cut by $1.55. These two tax reductions amount to 4.7 million dollars per month, or a projected 60 million dollars for this budget year. I assure you that if the acquisition cost for fuel continues to rise, the Cabinet will consider further adjustments. We are mindful that if oil prices continue to rise, the Government may need to introduce more substantial cost-saving measures. If and when that time comes, we will, of course, engage with our partners to ensure proper consultations. Thankfully, we are not there yet.

With respect to the wider economy, the good news is that so far, the effects of the conflict have not materially dampened employment and investment flows. The forecast for calendar year 2026 remains positive, with all of government's focus and resources directed to protecting our industries at home and markets abroad. Fortunately, to date, the tourists continue to come, and all airlines and routes to Belize remain strong. And thankfully, our agricultural sector and other areas like the BPO business, are robust and insulated from the current chaos.

With regard to domestic transportation and the recent issues with our bus operators concerning bus fares, the Cabinet determined that pricing for routes operated by the nascent National Bus Company will remain at current rates. For private bus operators who demanded rate increases, the government has approved a generous subsidy that specifically covers the incremental fuel costs. Over the next three months, government will provide a $3.00-per-gallon fuel subsidy to all private bus operators. This measure is intended to prevent any major increases in bus fares for commuters who travel within or outside their districts during this period. And I propose to go even further to tighten our belts, so Government embraces its fair share of sacrifice.

Cabinet and I, therefore, have agreed to the following:

Firstly, we will defer 30 million dollars in Capital Expenditures previously programmed for this budget year.

Secondly, 25 million dollars will be cut from Goods and Services allocations across all Ministries and Departments.

Thirdly, we will continue to tighten expenditure by significantly reducing foreign and local travel which will require less subsistence for meetings. This will be achieved by insisting on attending and organizing meetings and conferences virtually.

We will also continue to cut the government's fuel bill by limiting the use of government vehicles.

At the end of the first quarter, we will assess budget performance to determine what additional measures are necessary. While we will make these hard adjustments, I want to emphasize that our social safety net spending will not be disrupted. Social assistance services will continue through the Human Development Ministry's grocery bags, boost, and housing for single mothers' programs. In education, the tens of millions for scholarships and subsidies, as well as the early start and school feeding programs, will be maintained. In health and wellness, free medical services at our public hospitals and NHI's national roll-out will continue. Rest assured that when it comes to spending reductions and cuts, this Government will never reduce the investments we have budgeted for those most in need. That is the sacred contract of Plan Belize 2.0. I know that pocketbook issues are the most sensitive for you.

The transformation of the public finances since 2020 gives us room to confront these challenges. And I will foreswear no option in keeping Government's promise of national prosperity. Let us stay focused and work together with optimism. Let us be resourceful, especially our public servants - reduce costs where possible. As consumers, let us all choose Belizean products whenever we can. Let us conserve fuel and electricity in our daily routine. Belize is a land of resiliency, our people, one of resourcefulness. Together, we will overcome these challenges.

The government is committed to minimizing and mitigating the impact of global events and working closely with all stakeholders and the community to protect our national interests. This is the directive I have given the Ministers, to Representatives, to Mayors and Councilors and to all those with whom I share the duties of national leadership. These are the assurances I give you, the Belizean people today.

Compatriotas, hoy me dirijo a ustedes, para explicar las recientes alzas en los precios del combustible, ocasionadas por la persistente inestabilidad internacional, en especial por el conflicto en el Medio Oriente. Este conflicto ha provocado un incremento significativo de los precios del petróleo a nivel mundial. Señala que, si bien Belice no puede quedar aislado de estas presiones externas, el Gobierno ha adoptado medidas concretas para mitigar su impacto mediante importantes reducciones de impuestos al combustible y la implementación de subsidios. Estas acciones representan un considerable sacrificio fiscal para el Estado, pero tienen como propósito principal proteger a la ciudadanía, en particular a los usuarios del transporte público y a los sectores más vulnerables.

Paralelamente, el Gobierno ha iniciado ajustes responsables en el gasto público, sin comprometer los servicios esenciales como la salud, la educación y los programas de apoyo social. A pesar del contexto desafiante, les reafirmo que el suministro de combustible está garantizado, que la economía nacional mantiene su fortaleza y que Belice cuenta con la capacidad necesaria para enfrentar esta situación mediante la unidad, el uso responsable de los recursos y una gestión financiera prudente

Que Dios bendiga a Belice.

May God bless Belize.

I thank you.

Service of Recognition In Honor of Newly Installed ARCHBISHOP PHILIP SILVIN WRIGHT

The Archbishop of the Church in the Province of the West Indies, the Most Revd. Philip Wright OBE, was installed in a celebratory service at the Belize Civic Centre on April 26, 2026, in recognition of his long legacy of community mission, outreach and advocacy.

Archbishop Philip is the 14th Primate of the Church in the Province of the West Indies and is also Bishop of Belize, the second bishop from the Diocese of Belize and the first Belizean-born bishop to hold the position of Primate. He succeeds Archbishop Howard Gregory, who retired on December 31, 2024. The Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, the Rt. Revd. Anthony Poggo, attended the service during a provincial visit and was among the concelebrants.

The Service of Installation

Locally, the installation has been described as a 'service of recognition'. It was held at the 4,500-seat Civic Centre in Belize City to allow as many people as possible to attend and was also live-streamed to churches across other dioceses.

The service included contributions from dignitaries and local schools following Archbishop Philip's recent tour of schools in Belize, as well as involvement from ecumenical and interfaith groups. Dr Sheree Smiling Craig, Chair of the Recognition Committee at the Cathedral Church of St John the Baptist, told Greater Belize Media that the service was intended as 'a celebration where everyone is invited… it is not just an Anglican event, it is an ecumenical event' and 'a church-state event because of the national significance'. In addition to its spiritual significance, the event centred on music and involved around 1,700 children from 20 Anglican schools. 'That is why we had to move to the Civic Centre. Our Cathedral would not have been able to accommodate,' Dr. Smiling Craig explained. The theme of the service was Rooted in Christ, Reaching Out in Love. Bishops from several Anglican dioceses, including Barbados, Guyana, Suriname and Cayenne, Trinidad and Tobago, Northeastern Caribbean and Aruba, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, the Windward Islands, Long Island and Central Florida, were listed as concelebrants.

Music was central to the proceedings. Contributions came from the former Governor-General of Belize, His Excellency Sir Colville Young GCMG MBE, and eight local choirs. Several traditional hymns were sung alongside a Kyrie and Gloria, and a group of dancers performed a modern liturgical dance. Prayers were led by the Very Revd Dr Shelley-Ann Tenia, Dean of Holy Trinity Cathedral in the Diocese of Trinidad and Tobago, and by Bevan Niccolls, a Youth Representative from Barbados.

The heritage and diversity of the province were represented throughout, including readings given in some of the languages spoken in the region. The Old Testament reading from Jeremiah was read in Mayan by Her Excellency Dame Froyla Tzalam GCMG, Governor General of Belize, and in English by Mrs Carla Suite Wright, Archbishop Philip's wife. The New Testament passage from 2 Corinthians was read in Garifuna by a representative from the Garifuna people, an Afro-Indigenous group, and in English by Archbishop Philip's niece. The Gospel from the Book of Luke was read in English by the Rt Revd Claude Berkley (Bishop of the Diocese of Trinidad and Tobago) and in Spanish by the Revd Olivia Vasquez (Diocese of Belize).

The Most Revd Philip S. Wright, Archbishop and Primate of the Church in the Province of the West Indies, with the Rt Revd Anthony Poggo, Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, following the service of recognition in Belize.

Treasure in Jars of Clay

In his first sermon as the newly installed primate, Archbishop Philip drew on the metaphor of clay jars in 2 Corinthians 4:7–9. 'We look in the mirror and we do not always see a vessel fit for God,' he said, 'but the good news is that it is not about the jar. It is about the treasure the jar contains.' Reflecting on the gift and burden of being called to ministry and leadership, he asked: 'Why would God choose clay jars? Why would God put something precious in something so fragile?' The answer, his sermon made clear, is that when God works through the broken and the struggling, there can be no confusion about the source of the power. 'When the power of God shines through a trembling preacher, a recovering addict, a tired mother, a grieving widow… there is no mistaking where that power comes from'. It is not the jar.

The Secretary General's Provincial Visit

The Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, the Rt Revd Anthony Poggo, has undertaken a provincial visit coinciding with the installation service and was among the special guests attending. Bishop Anthony said: 'It was a great pleasure to be present

Continued on page 9

Ministry of
Human Development, Family Support, and Gender Affairs

WHAT WE DO WEDNESDAY

Supporting Accountability. Promoting Change.

Not all justice happens in a courtroom.
Across Belize, the **Community Rehabilitation Department** (CRD) works with individuals in conflict with the law providing supervision, guidance, and structured support to encourage accountability and positive change.

Through services such as:
✔ Court and case management
✔ Probation and community supervision
✔ Counselling and behaviour support
✔ Reintegration planning

CRD helps individuals take responsibility, make better choices, and rebuild their lives within their communities. This approach not only supports rehabilitation, it also contributes to safer families and stronger communities. Join us next Wednesday as we take a closer look at how these services work and the impact they are making across Belize.

Facebook & Instagram:
Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs
Serving People. Strengthening Families. Building Communities.

ARCHBISHOP PHILIP SILVIN WRIGHT

Continued from page 8

for this vibrant installation service, recognising Archbishop Philip Wright as the new Primate of the Church in the Province of the West Indies. His passion for the province in which he was born and has served for many years is commendable. I will continue to pray for the province, which contributes so much to the Anglican Communion Networks and Commissions, and for Archbishop Philip as he begins this new chapter of his ministry. I wish him every blessing.'

The evening before the installation, the Secretary General attended a state reception at Government House on April 25 in honour of Archbishop Philip and his legacy of ministry. Hosted by Her Excellency Dame Froyla Tzalam, the Governor General of Belize, the event was attended by the Prime Minister of Belize, the Leader of the Opposition, other government officials and members of Belize's consular and diplomatic corps.

The Secretary General also enjoyed a guided tour of the Altun Ha historic site on April 25, where he learned about the ancient Maya civilisation, including their advanced knowledge of astronomy, architecture, trade and governance. The visit offered an insight into Belize's deep cultural heritage and the enduring legacy of its first peoples.

The Secretary General of the Anglican Communion was accompanied by Senator Patrick Faber, who represented the Anglican Diocese of Belize during a guided tour of the ancient Maya historic site, Altun Ha, during a provincial visit to the Church in the Province of the West Indies (April 27)

The Secretary General attends the House of Bishops meeting

The Secretary General also attended the Provincial House of Bishops meeting during his visit on April 27, where he shared stories from across the Anglican Communion and attended a Eucharist at St John's Cathedral in Belize.

The meeting was held at the House of Culture in the heart of Belize City and involved a full day of reflection, fellowship, and planning for the mission ahead.

The Secretary General was invited to share perspectives from across the global Communion and encouraged the Province's connection with Anglicans worldwide.

At midday, the bishops gathered for Holy Eucharist at St. John's Cathedral, the oldest Anglican church in Central America and a lasting symbol of Anglican witness in Belize.

In the afternoon, the House of Bishops continued its work by advancing the five strategic priorities adopted at the last Provincial Synod and now being carried forward under the leadership of Archbishop the Most Rev. Philip S. Wright. These are: Youth (Strengthening discipleship and leadership among young people across the dioceses); Technology (Improving communication and expanding digital ministry across the Province); Constitutional Renewal (Updating governance structures to support accountability and mission); Faith Formation and Education (Supporting clergy development, lay leadership, and Anglican schools) and Family Life (Encouraging pastoral care and support for families across the Province).

About the Church of the Province of the West Indies

The province's roots trace back to the early 1700s and it became a self-governing body within the worldwide Anglican Communion in 1883. Today, the province encompasses eight dioceses: The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, the Northeastern Caribbean and Aruba, Trinidad and Tobago and the Windward Islands.

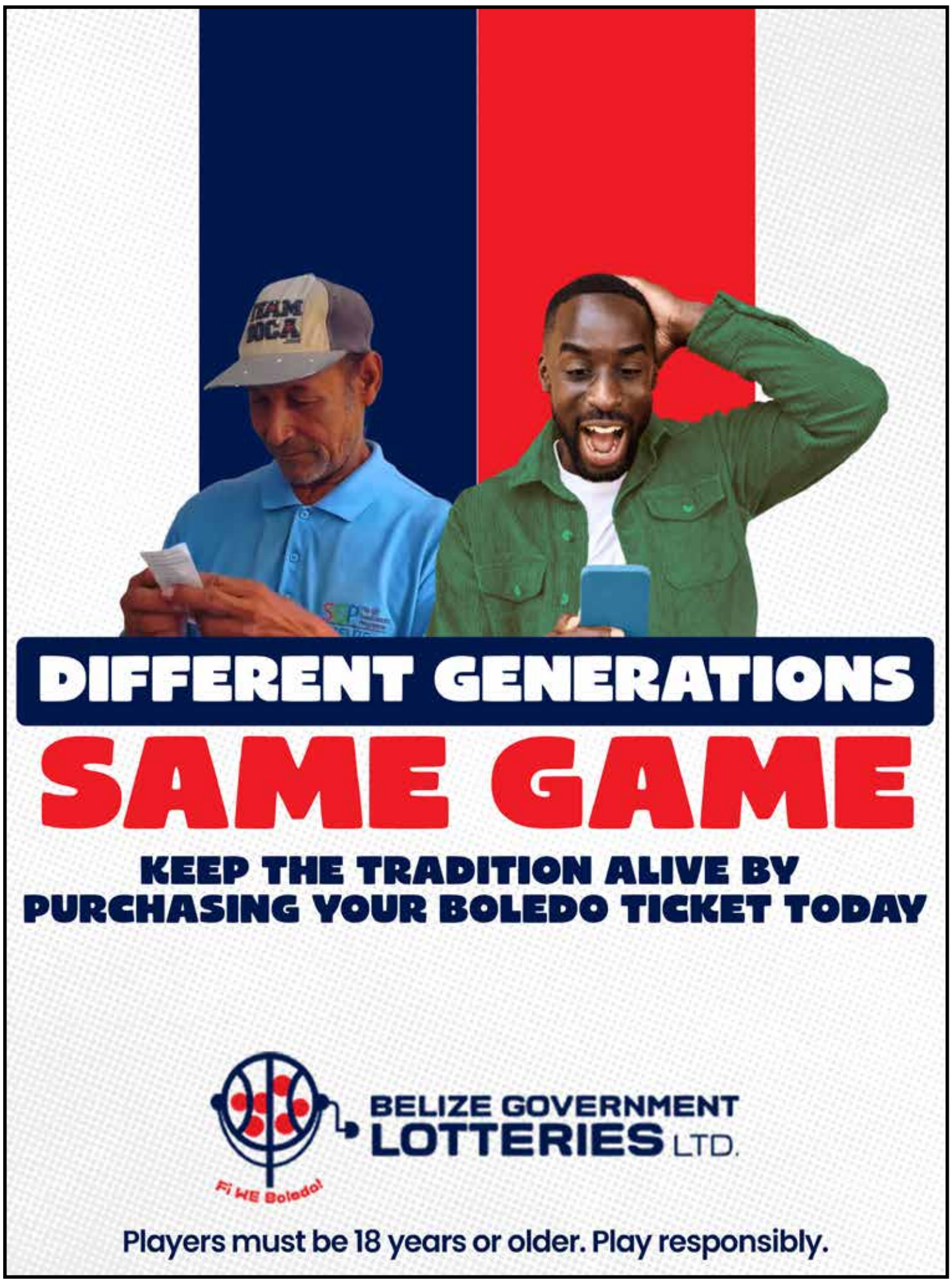
About Archbishop Philip Wright

Archbishop Philip was a teacher before being ordained a deacon in 1992 and a priest in 1993 at the Cathedral Church of St John the Baptist in Belize City. In October 2005, he was elected as the 14th Bishop of the Diocese of Belize. In addition to his diocesan responsibilities, he serves as one of the Presidents of the World Council of Churches, representing the Caribbean and Latin America. Within Belize, he has held appointments on national commissions concerned with good governance, family and child welfare and education.

When his election as primate was originally announced in October 2025, Archbishop Philip spoke of his passion for engaging young people with the life of the church as an ongoing priority. Ahead of the service of installation, he received an honour from the Recognition Committee, acknowledging his lifetime of dedication, faith and service to the Belizean community. Speaking to Greater Belize Media on April 15, Archbishop Philip spoke of his ambition to become a priest since the age of seven, saying, 'All I wanted to be was a priest… And as I got older, I saw it as one of the unique ways to serve others and to try and make a difference in the lives of other people.'

He also reflected on the importance of humility when honours are given, sharing his belief that one enters the priesthood 'for the love of it. You do it with a sense of calling… and you just try your best… When you look at all the things that seek to rob us of hope and joy and peace, it helps us to begin to understand what ministry is all about, because the ministry of which we are part seeks to bring joy and hope and love.' (anglicannews.com)

Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño, H.E. Governor-General Dame Froyla Tzalam, a cadre of Government Ministers, the Mayor of Belize City Bernard Wagner and other national leaders atteded the Service of Recognition for the Most Reverend Philip S. Wright. They were all there to represent the Belizean people in what is definitely a defining moment of both Belizean and spiritual significance on the regional arena.



GOB Advances National ID Consultations

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN ORANGE WALK

"Gives user greater control over how their personal information is used and shared"

The Government of Belize, through the Ministry of E-Governance, continues to move forward with the development of the National Identification (ID) Bill, with a successful public consultation held on April 23, 2026, at Central Park in Orange Walk Town and then in Belize City. This marks the first steps in a nationwide series of consultations designed to give Belizeans a direct voice in shaping a modern and secure national identification system.

This consultation builds on the initial engagement held on February 3, 2026, which launched a collaborative process involving civil society, academia, the private sector, and government institutions. More recently, a validation session was held on April 21, 2026, at the University of Belize, Belmopan Campus, reviewed the draft Bill and ensured that public feedback continues to shape its development.

The proposed National ID Bill aims to:

- Establish a secure and unified legal framework for identity management
- Protect personal data through strong privacy safeguards
- Strengthen governance and institutional accountability
- Improve access to public services, financial systems, and social programs
- Enhance national security and administrative efficiency
- Support Belize's digital transformation

During the consultation, it was emphasized that the use of biometric technology is not new to Belizeans. Biometric verification is already widely used across everyday services and systems in the country, including identity checks and access controls in various sectors. The proposed National ID system builds on this familiarity by introducing a structured, nationally governed approach that strengthens consistency, security, and reliability in identity verification.

Importantly, the system is being designed to empower individuals by giving them greater control over how their personal information is used and shared, depending on the service they access. This approach fosters trust, strengthens privacy, and ensures that the system works for all Belizeans.

The session brought together members of the public, stakeholders, and government representatives in an open and engaging dialogue on the future of identity management in Belize, reflecting the Government's commitment to inclusive and people-centred governance.

The Orange Walk consultation created a valuable space for citizens to ask questions, share concerns, and contribute ideas, reinforcing the Government's commitment to transparency and meaningful public participation.

The consultation process continued with the next session scheduled for April 24, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Biltmore Hotel in Belize City. The Ministry of E-Governance will continue to host consultations across the country to ensure that every Belizean has the opportunity to participate in shaping this important national initiative.

The Government of Belize encourages all citizens to take part in this process. Your voice matters in building a trusted, secure, and inclusive National Identification System that will improve access to services and support national development for generations to come. (release)

Additional gaols are that it aims to reduce bureaucracy, facilitate digital transactions, and enhance security using biometric features. The system is managed by the Ministry of E-Governance, integrating with the Social Security Board and Vital Statistics Unit to issue a secure digital ID that can be used for financial services, social benefits, and government interactions.

Key Details and FAQs on Belize National ID:

-A key purpose is to streamline identity verification for both public and private services, reducing reliance on multiple cards like Voter ID and Social Security.

-Key Features in the proposed system includes biometric verification (facial scanning) and secure digital authentication, similar to global standards.

- The main issue may be Security & Privacy which is given the utmost of priority. The government has noted that biometric checks are already in use, but they are seeking input on data privacy, hosting, and the most modern protection measures to address public concerns about data breaches.

Possible Usage Examples: opening bank accounts securely, accessing government online services, collecting social benefits, applying for passports.

When the consultations come to your area, citizens are asked to participate in the question and answer sessions.

BTB hosts CTO's STC

Tourism in Full Color

Continued from page 5

Vincent Palacio of the University of Belize pointed out that "policies must be enforceable, measurable, and backed by real incentives." Frank Comito of CHTA/CAST stressed the importance of sectors collaborating to drive meaningful progress.

Belize's cultural strength took center stage during discussions on the orange economy. Kim Vasquez of the Institute of Creative Arts (ICA) stated, "Culture is Belize's most authentic competitive advantage." She emphasized that authenticity must be preserved, ensuring that cultural expressions remain genuine and not diluted for tourism purposes.

Meanwhile, the purple economy session highlighted inclusion and social impact. Dr. Mechelle Best of California State University challenged the industry to move beyond theory, explaining that "inclusion is not a concept — it's a daily practice rooted in respect for people." Her remarks reinforced the idea that sustainable tourism must prioritize equity, community voice, and shared value.

Technology and innovation were also explored as part of the yellow economy, with Dr. Mario Špadina noting that digital tools play a critical role in connecting all aspects of tourism. He explained that data-driven strategies can enhance decision-making and improve visitor experiences while strengthening resilience across the sector.

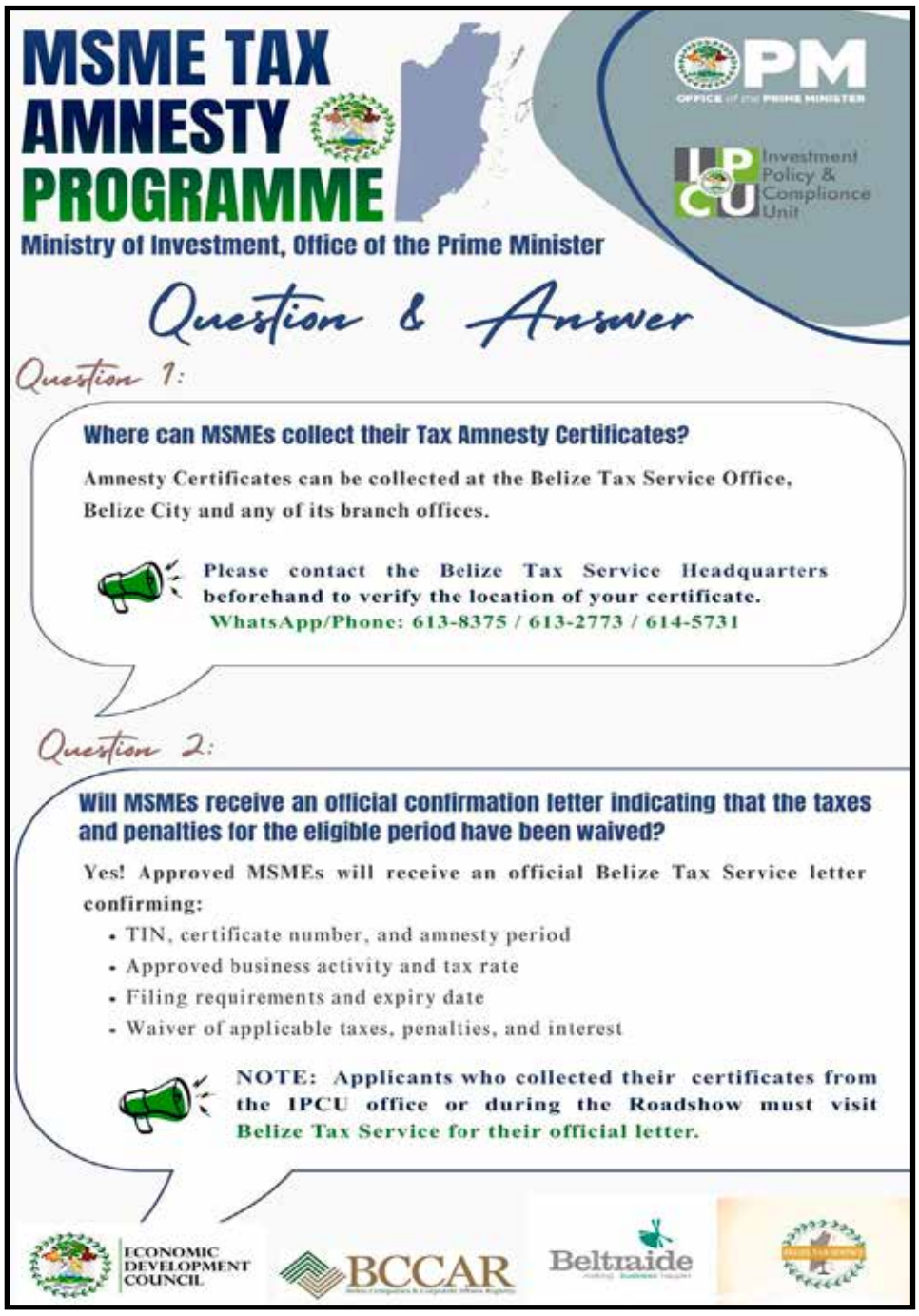
Beyond the conference rooms, delegates experienced Belize's culture firsthand through evening showcases featuring local music, cuisine, and creative industries. These immersive moments reflected the very principles being discussed, demonstrating how culture and community can drive meaningful tourism experiences.

As the conference continued, the overarching message remained consistent: the future of Caribbean tourism depends on action, collaboration, and a commitment to placing people at the center of development. With discussions still ongoing, Belize's role as host highlighted its leadership in advancing a vision of tourism that is not only economically viable but socially inclusive and environmentally responsible.

On Wednesday, the plenary sessions and technical workshops of the CTO move to fun visits to the Hol Chan Marine Reserve, and to mainland site like the Lamanai Archaeological Reserve, Hopkins Experience (Palmento Grove Eco-Cultural and Healing Lodge, Che'il Mayan Chocolate, and Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary), and The Chaa Creek Experience, offering firsthand insight into community-based tourism, marine and terrestrial conservation, and cultural heritage initiatives.

The conference concludes on Thursday, April 30 and the time to enhance Tourism in the region up to a more brilliant and full color commences.

MSME TAX AMNESTY PROGRAMME
Ministry of Investment, Office of the Prime Minister
OPM
OFFICE of the PRIME MINISTER
IPCU Investment Policy & Compliance Unit
"Need Help?"
• For assistance with amnesty approval and filing obligations contact the Belize Tax Service through the following channels:
◦ WhatsApp/Phone: 613-8375 / 613-2773 / 614-5731
◦ Online (IRIS Belize Portal): https://irisbelize.bts.gov.bz
• For one-on-one confidential and business advising contact the BELTRAIDE Small Business Development Centre (SBDC) through the following channels:
◦ Phone: +501 280-3195
◦ E-mail : info@beltraide.bz or jorge@beltraide.bz
Beltraide making business happen
IPCU Investment Policy & Compliance Unit
• Experiencing challenges/ concerns contact the Investment Policy and Compliance Unit (IPCU) for assistance and guidance regarding their amnesty status or related concerns.
◦ Phone: +501-880-4728
◦ E-mail: belizeinvestment@gmail.com


MSME TAX AMNESTY PROGRAMME
Ministry of Investment, Office of the Prime Minister
OPM
OFFICE of the PRIME MINISTER
IPCU Investment Policy & Compliance Unit
Question & Answer
Question 1:
Where can MSMEs collect their Tax Amnesty Certificates?
Amnesty Certificates can be collected at the Belize Tax Service Office, Belize City and any of its branch offices.
Please contact the Belize Tax Service Headquarters beforehand to verify the location of your certificate.
WhatsApp/Phone: 613-8375 / 613-2773 / 614-5731
Question 2:
Will MSMEs receive an official confirmation letter indicating that the taxes and penalties for the eligible period have been waived?
Yes! Approved MSMEs will receive an official Belize Tax Service letter confirming:
• TIN, certificate number, and amnesty period
• Approved business activity and tax rate
• Filing requirements and expiry date
• Waiver of applicable taxes, penalties, and interest
NOTE: Applicants who collected their certificates from the IPCU office or during the Roadshow must visit Belize Tax Service for their official letter.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
BCCAR
Beltraide

WORK CONTINUES IN 2026

PM John Briceño

A National ID System for Everyone
HOW IT WORKS
YOU ENROLL
YOU RECEIVE A UNIQUE ID
YOU APPROVE/DECLINE
THE SYSTEM CONFIRMS YOUR IDENTITY SECURELY

National ID Consultation Begins

Caribbean Tourism Conference

Ministers Attending as BTB Hosts

Hon. Alex Balona & Councillor Aaron Mai

Land Issues Aid to Cayo Central at Bradley Banks

Hon. Rodwell Ferguson (SC West), Agriculture, Food Security & New Growth Industries

Sembrando Vida II, w/ Ramiro Ramirez in Czl SW

In the Dominican Republic

Hon. Osmond Martinez, Tol. East

SEAM Project in Dolores, Otoxha, Boom Creek, Copper Bank

PUP
PEOPLE'S UNITED PARTY

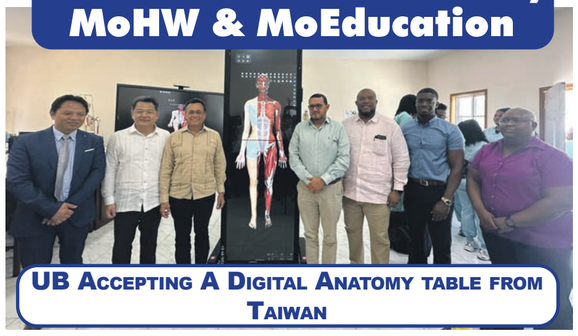
Earth Day

Sustainable Development & Climate Change

Tourism

NEMO

Mins Bernard & Fonseca, MoHW & MoEducation



UB Accepting A Digital Anatomy table from Taiwan

Municipal Works

CTC & MIDH in Chula Vista

San Pedro TC

Dangriga Mayor at Cooperative Reg

PG TC Donating TV Set

Belize City Autism Walk

OW Mayor Sharing w Benque Mayor

OWTC staff Capacity-building workshop

BMP TC Works

Glasgow Games 2026 King's Baton Relay in Yo Creek

OW Councillors Escalante & Sanchez at Pok-Ta-Pok

'SEGUIMOS MUY BIEN'

Progress in Corozal Bay Backboards & Rims

Hon. Thea Garcia Ramirez – "I am pleased to announce that last night, at approximately 10:00 PM, we successfully completed the installation of two new professional backboards and rims at Rolando Alcoser Park in Joseito Layout.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the dedicated team on the ground who assisted with the installation: Mr. Anthony Patnett, Mr. Jared Marvin Alcoser, Mr. Justin Nelson Torres, Mr. Ezer Julian Alcoser, Mr. Roger Chan, and Mr. Jose Alfredo Valdez.

Our next step is to replace the nine lights that are currently not functioning, as we continue working to improve and enhance this complex for our community.

I kindly ask everyone—especially residents in the surrounding area—to help us take care of our public spaces. By working together, we can continue

building a better Corozal Bay for all." (post)

Hon Thea is putting work behind her word. These works occur with the direct or indirect support of the Corozal Town Council and Mayor Vellos.

The body of work includes the ongoing upgrade to the Corozal Central Park, varied help to schools, shoreline solar lighting, vegetation trimming, drain cleanup(assisting CTC), Boulevard median beautification, lighting and cleanup of Jade Head Roundaabout and more.

Add this to the Corozal Town Council efforts on streets, the George Price Roundabout, the bulk of the drains, signage, Chactemal Plaza, and the usual responsibilities of a council and you will experience a Corozal Town that is progressing. More work is needed and for sure it continues.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

Consultancy Services to conduct the Midterm Evaluation for the Program for Sustainable and Inclusive Belize – BL-L1041

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize, Central America
Project: Program for Sustainable and Inclusive Belize (SAIB)
Process ID: BL-L1041 – P00030
Deadline: **May 20th, 2026**; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the execution of the – "Program for Sustainable and Inclusive Belize (SAIB)" being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to procure the services of an Individual Consultant to conduct the **Midterm Evaluation for the Program for Sustainable and Inclusive Belize (BL-L1041).**

The Ministry of Finance invites interested individuals to access the full version of this request for expression of interest online at https://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities/ or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit their application in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

Sr. Procurement Specialist
Central Executing Unit
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building
Belmopan, Belize
Email: procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: **Consultancy Service to conduct the Midterm Evaluation for the SAIB Program (BL-L1041)** –
Your name

MoHW – MoECST – Partners 2nd Annual Corozal Nutrition Expo

On Friday April 24th, The Ministry of Health& Wellness in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology along with our partners held the 2nd annual Corozal Nutrition Expo.

The objective of the Expo aimed to promote healthy habits such as nutrition, health education and physical activity for the prevention of obesity and other non communicable diseases affecting both students and the general population.

This event showcased many booths for health promotion, mental health and drug prevention. The event featured a high school nutrition competition whereby various schools prepared creative healthy meals using local produce. In addition, a grand football tournament was held for primary school students emphasizing the importance of physical activity while making it fun and competitive.

We are thankful to all the schools, partners and the Ministry of Health & Wellness Team in Corozal for organizing such a successful event.

We are grateful for all the support as we continue to promote the Healthy Habits, Healthy Schools Initiative. (Post)

MSME TAX AMNESTY PROGRAMME

Ministry of Investment, Office of the Prime Minister

OPM OFFICE of the PRIME MINISTER

IPCU Investment Policy & Compliance Unit

Question & Answer

Question 3: **What happens to any tax payments that MSMEs made during the exemption period?**

Eligible payments made during the covered period may be refunded or credited after review.

Question 4: **What conditions must MSMEs meet in order to maintain the benefits of the Tax Amnesty Programme?**

MSMEs must:

- File returns on time
- Keep proper records
- Comply with tax obligations

Question 5: **If an MSME becomes non-compliant after receiving the amnesty, will the waived penalties and interest be reinstated?**

- Failure to comply may result in loss of amnesty benefits.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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BELIZE TAX SERVICE

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS (CERT)

LAUNCH IN ORANGE WALK

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

On Saturday, April 25, 2026, the adjoining villages of San Antonio and Santa Cruz on Albion Island, Orange Walk District, took an important step toward strengthening community resilience with the official launch of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs).

The ceremony marked the start of a structured training programme, led by the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), under the Ministry of the Public Service and Disaster Risk Management, aimed at preparing residents to respond effectively to emergencies.

The CERT programme will bring together community volunteers who will undergo comprehensive training

in disaster risk reduction, participatory risk assessments, CPR, basic first aid, search and rescue, fire safety, and shelter management. Upon completion, participants will be equipped to serve as a vital first line of response, supporting their communities before, during, and after emergencies.

San Antonio and Santa Cruz are among the communities in northern Belize that have historically experienced flooding. The introduction of the CERT programme in these villages is a proactive measure to strengthen preparedness, improve coordination at the local level, and reduce risks to lives, property, and livelihoods during flood events and other emergencies.

In attendance at the launch were Hon. Henry Charles Usher, Minister of the Public Service and Disaster Risk Management, and Hon. Ramon Cervantes, Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and Area Representative for Orange Walk North. (release)

Fire Incident in San Pedro Columbia, Toledo

Brings Collective Community Effort

April 28, 2026 - A fire incident has been reported in San Pedro Columbia. Some 13 homes were destroyed including nearby trees and structures. Lives have been permanently affected. The fire was put under control. The immediate operational objective was to fully extinguish all hot spots and prevent any re-ignition.

The Belize Defence Force personnel were called upon to support response operations. Ya'axché members also mobilized and headed to the affected area. The Community Emergency Response Team members were active in the response group and supporting coordination. The response teams are focusing on complete extinguishment of remnants to ensure the fire does not spark up again. Of course, the Fire Department is on the scene as well. The Toledo EOC has been partially activated and the District Coordinators are working with the community leaders to determine what will be needed.

The fire started around 2:30 p.m. and spread rapidly through the village, fueled by dry weather conditions abetted by strong easterly winds. The affected homes were mostly thatch structures which fuelled the fires movement from one structure to the next very quickly. The community itself had to place efforts to battle the flames.

The fire was eventually brought under control after assistance arrived, including support from the Ya'axché members. Up to press time, no lives were lost in this tragedy.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI) (CONSULTING FIRM)

Consultancy service for Change Management Strategy and Action Plan for the Vital Statistics Unit

Institution:	Ministry of Finance
Country:	Belize, Central America
Project:	Digital Innovation to Boost Economic Development in Belize
Process ID:	BL-L1039 – P00051
Duration:	Twelve (12) Months
Deadline:	**May 26, 2026; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)**

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the implementation of the Digital Innovation to Boost Economic Development in Belize project.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to procure the services of a Consulting Firm to undertake the **"Consultancy service for Change Management Strategy and Action Plan for the Vital Statistics Unit".**

The Ministry of Finance invites interested firms to access the full version of this REOI online at https://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities/ or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:
Procurement Officer
Ministry of Finance
3rd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR FOR THE NATIONAL E-GOVERNMENT PORTAL DEVELOPMENT – MINISTRY OF E-GOVERNANCE (MoEG)

Institution:	Ministry of Finance
Country:	Belize
Project:	Digital Innovation to Boost Economic Development in Belize
Process ID:	BL-L1039 – P00050
Duration:	Twelve (12) Months
Duty Station:	Hybrid (Remote and on-site Ministry of E-Governance (MoEG), Belmopan, Belize)
Deadline:	**May 29, 2026; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)**

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the execution of the "Digital Innovation to Boost Economic Development in Belize project", being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to engage the contractual services of a **"Technical Coordinator for the National e-Government Portal Development" for the Ministry of Ministry of E-Governance (MoEG).**

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Application and Terms of Reference (TOR) at http://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities / or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:
Procurement Officer
Ministry of Finance
3rd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-822-4106
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Specific Procurement Notice

BELIZE Social Investment Fund

Request for Bids
Small Works
(One-Envelope Bidding Process)

Country: Belize
Name of Project: Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project
Contract Title: UB Central Farm Meat Processing Plant
Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.: P172592
RFB Reference No.: *BZ-SIF-549020-CW-RFB*

1. The *Government of Belize* has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the *Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture Project* and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Construction of *UB Central Farm Meat Processing Plant*.

2. *The Belize Social Investment Fund* now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the construction of the *UB Central Farm Meat Processing Plant*.

3. Bidding will be conducted through a national competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations") and is open to all Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.

4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from *Belize Social Investment Fund, Ms. Jahnina Reyes, Procurement Officer procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org and inspect the bidding document during office hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.* at the address given below.

5. The bidding document in English may be requested by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before *May 29th, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. local time*. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids *will* be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on *May 29th, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.*

7. All Bids must be accompanied by a *"Bid Security"* of BZD*$19,311.00*

8. "Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's benficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document."

9. The address referred to above is:

Belize Social Investment Fund
Attn: Ms. Jahnina Reyes, Procurement Officer
P.O. Box 459, 4253 Hummingbird Highway, Building C, Belmopan City, Belize
Telephone: +501-822-0239
Email: procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org
Cc : jahnina.reyes@sifbelize.org

MAFSNGI
Registering New Co-operative Societies
Stann Creek District

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and New Growth Industries informs the public that on April 23, 2026, the Department of Co-operatives, which is responsible for the registration and regulation of co-operatives, held a double registration ceremony in Pomona Village, Stann Creek District, for two newly registered entities: the Southern Agro-Tourism Co-operative Society Limited of Pomona Village and the Dangriga Indigenous Farmers' Co-operative Society Limited of Dangriga Town. Through this registration, these new co-operatives have transitioned from informal associations of small producers and service providers to formal enterprises operating under the department's oversight.

The Southern Agro-Tourism Co-operative Society Limited comprises eighteen members, twelve males and six females, who will combine agricultural production and processing with tourism-related services. The Dangriga Indigenous Farmers' Co-operative Society Limited comprises nineteen members, fifteen males and four females, who focus on agricultural production, mainly regional varieties of fruits and vegetables.

During the ceremony, Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, Minister of Agriculture, Food Security, and New Growth Industries and Area Representative for Stann Creek West, and Dr. Hon. Louis Zabaneh, Minister of Constitution and Religious Affairs, Indigenous Affairs, and Transportation and Area Representative for Dangriga, delivered keynote addresses. His Lordship Robert Mariano, the Mayor of the Dangriga Town Council, was also in attendance.

Additional remarks were delivered by Mr. Gareth Murillo, Registrar of Co-operatives; Mr. Aaron Garbutt, Chairman of the Southern Agro-Tourism Co-operative Society Ltd.; and Mr. Timothy Lewis, Chairman of the Dangriga Indigenous Farmers' Co-operative Society Ltd. (release)

Ministry of Agriculture Receives Visit from its Bahamian Counterparts

Belmopan, April 27, 2026.

A delegation from the Bahamas Ministry of Agriculture today visited the headquarters of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries. The delegation is in Belize to witness the 2026 National Agriculture and Trade Show, but the members have arrived early to visit agricultural production areas, including the BSI and Santander sugar facilities, CPBL in Stann Creek, and Spanish Lookout. The delegation will also meet with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Trade and BELTRAIDE.

During their visit this morning, they met with members of the Ministry's senior management team, including Minister Rodwell Ferguson. Discussions focused on mutual issues of interest, including food importation and exportation.

The delegation comprises Godfrey Eneas, Chairman, Bahamas Centre for Food and Nutrition Security; Carl Smith, Deputy Chairman, National Advisory Committee on Agriculture; Leslie Minns, Head, Trade Facilitation Unit; Dr. Jason Sands, Director of Agriculture; and Christopher Worrel, Director, Bahamas Agricultural Health & Food Safety Authority. The delegation departs Belize on Sunday, May 3. (release)

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GOB – Mexico Launch

Phase II of the Sembrando Vida Project

Another 2000 Farmers to Benefit

April 23, 2026 - The Governments of Belize and Mexico have launched phase two of the Sembrando Vida project in Belize. The launch took place in the village of San Narciso, in the Corozal District, during a ceremony hosted by Hon. Ramiro Ramirez, Minister of State in the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management, and Area Representative for Corozal Southwest. Also present at the ceremony were H.E. Ana Luisa Vallejo Barba, Ambassador of Mexico to Belize; Servulo Baeza, CEO in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries; and Maestra Alejandra del Moral Vela, Executive Director of the Agencia Mexicana de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo

(AMEXCID), along with other officials of AMEXCID and Sembrando Vida.

AMEXCID is an agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico. Its primary function is to coordinate, implement, and evaluate Mexico's international cooperation policies, acting both as a provider and recipient of technical, scientific, and educational assistance to promote sustainable development. The agency operates the Sembrando Vida project in several countries, including Belize.

The second phase of Sembrando Vida stems from commitments made by the Governments of Mexico and Belize, signed on May 7, 2022, during a visit by then Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador to Belize. The first phase of the project was launched in June 2023, benefiting approximately 2,000 small farmers. The goals of the Sembrando Vida project include sustainability and resilience in agriculture, as well as improving the livelihoods of small farmers by involving them in programs and projects that promote self-reliance in food security, rebuild rural communities' social networks, and restore the environment.

Sembrando Vida is proof that Belize and Mexico share similar goals, including bilateral and technical co-operation in areas of mutual interest, such as boosting socio-economic development and promoting economic programs in sectors like agriculture.

Following the launch ceremony, farmer beneficiaries in attendance participated in the registration process at the San Narciso Ramiro Ramirez Auditorium.

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PR#112-26

PRESS RELEASE

MoHW Advises Measles Vaccination After Case in Toledo District

Belmopan, April 25, 2026.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) informs the public of a case preliminarily diagnosed with measles on April 24, 2026. This person is a 19-year-old resident of the Toledo District with recent travel to Guatemala.

All isolation and quarantine recommendations for the patient and known contacts are being followed. A ring vaccination exercise and community outreach were immediately started and are ongoing.

The MoHW reminds the public of the growing outbreak of measles in neighboring Guatemala with 5,100 cases reported since December 2025.

The MoHW urges the public to get vaccinated against measles to protect themselves and their families. Vaccination prevents measles and measles complications.

Who should get vaccinated?

- **Children:** Two doses as part of routine immunization at 12 and 18 months of age.
- **Unvaccinated individuals (over 18 months old):** Two doses, given one month apart.
- **Individuals who received only one dose:** An additional booster dose is recommended.
- **Persons unsure of their vaccination status:** One dose is advised.

Travel Guidance

- **Travelers (12 months and older):** Ensure vaccination at least two weeks prior to travel.
- **Unvaccinated travelers under 1 year old:** Consult a healthcare provider for guidance.

The MoHW is committed to ensuring that the public is kept informed and updated in this regard at all times.

For more information, please contact your nearest health provider or call the Ministry's toll-free number 0-800-MOH-CARE (0-800-664-2273).

Ends

Ministry of Health & Wellness

Winners 2026 School Garden Competition

Belmopan, April 29, 2026:

The National Agriculture and Trade Show (NATS) Committee, under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries, is pleased to announce the winners of the **2026 School Garden** Competition:

Primary Schools:

-First Place: San Victor R.C. Primary School (Corozal District)

-Second Place: Sandy Creek Primary School, Silk Grass (Stann Creek District)

High Schools:

-First Place: Belize High School of Agriculture (Orange Walk District)

-Second Place: Corozal ITVET (Corozal District)

The Committee congratulates the winners for their outstanding creativity, innovation, and commitment to agriculture, with special recognition to San Victor R.C. Primary School, which has won for an unprecedented third consecutive year.

The Committee also extends heartfelt appreciation to all participating primary and high schools, as well as the judges, parents, and supporters who contributed to this year's school garden competition.

The public is reminded that the **National Agriculture and Trade Show 2026** will be held **April 30 to May 3, 2026**, under the theme *"Advancing Smart Agriculture: Building a Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Belizean Food System."*

OWTC - Promises Kept New Site for Dignity

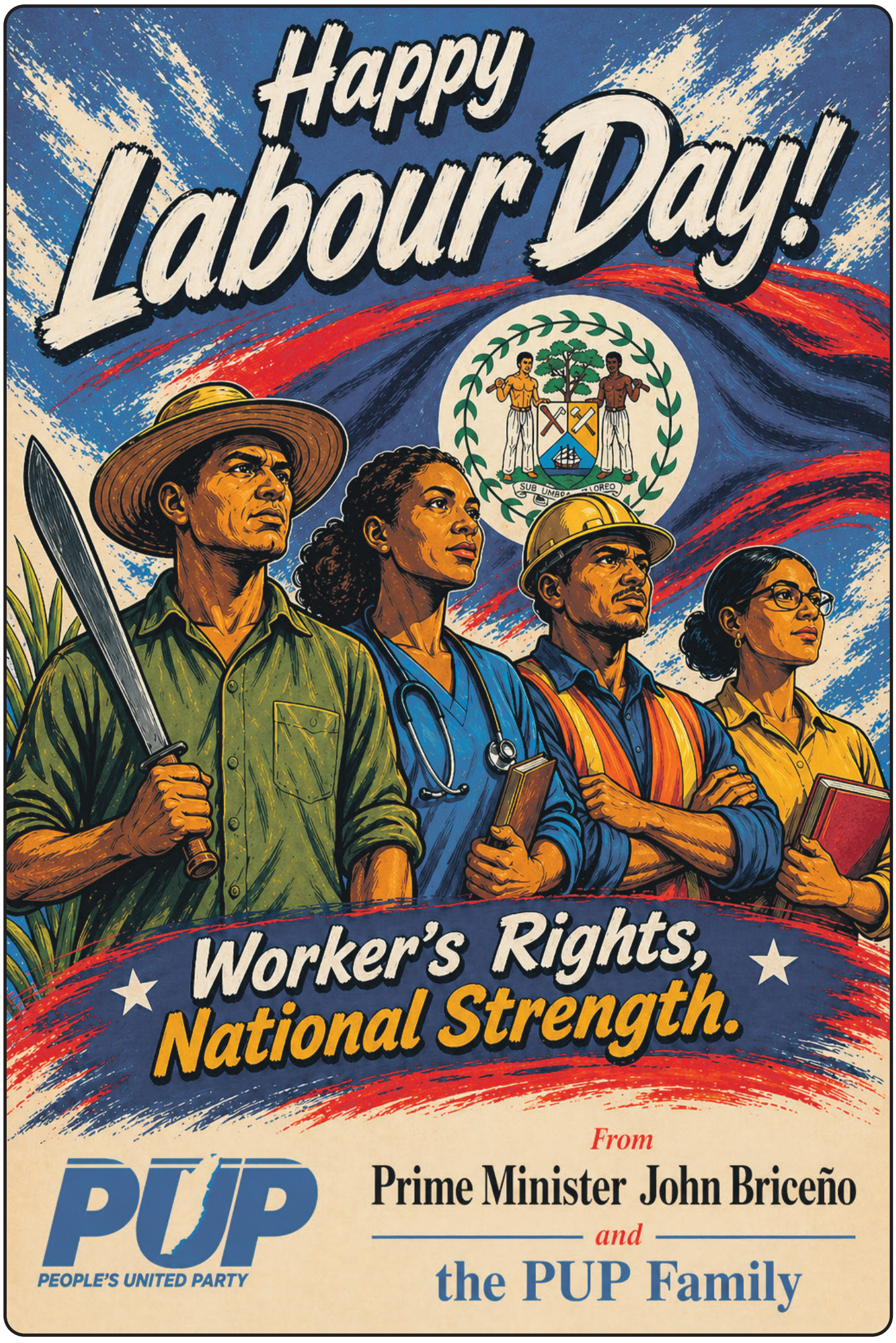
The Orange Walk Town Council worked through the weekend of April 25, 2026 to begin clearing and preparing the site for the new Orange Walk Town Cemetery, located along Chan Pine Ridge Road.

The citizens of the town know that the two cemeteries in the town proper are full and grave lots are, for all intents, exhausted.

A promise of this Sheppard town administration is that of a new site for a cemetery. We all know that taking our loved ones to their final resting place is one full of dignity.

The Town Council that has recently implemented a Clean Fee is showing that it is constantly working to give citizen value for their vote. The Team of Fernandez, de la Fuente, Yu, Escalante, Castillo, and Pascascio led by Ladrick 'Mad Bull' Sheppard is 'no joke'. This is one mad bull that knows what he is doing as he works in the Prime Minister's constituency and is achieving successfully.

The cemetery is just ONE example of many of the initiatives that these motivated councilors do in the name of the people of Orange Walk, for Belize, the PUP and their council. Many thanks to the OW TC staff and field workers who ensure that these initiatives are successful.



Voice of the Common Man

YABRA ON THE RISE: FISH MARKET LAUNCH, A DREAM COME TRUE

By Hilly Bennett

On Tuesday, April 27, 2026, at the foot of the Yarborough bridge, the Belize City Council, under the leadership of Mayor Bernard Wagner and his able-bodied city councillors and Port Loyola Representative, Hon Gilroy Usher, opened the community-centric project, the YABRA FISH MARKET.

For years, the fishermen in the historic Yarborough area manned the elements, the heat of the sun, the rain and the unhealthy conditions beside the canal-side, cleaning fish, and selling their fish products to provide for their families.

However, under the visionary leadership of Mayor Bernard Wagner and adhering to the Belize City Council (BCC) mantra ‹Always Bout The People ' the situation has changed. After consulting with the fishermen and the community, understanding that "*development imposed from above rarely lasts. Development built with people lasts for generations*" the dream became a reality. Six vendors will be operating the YABRA Fish Market with access to all the necessary amenities at a mere one-dollar per-day rental. As Mayor Wagner suggested "That is intentional. Because our role is not to make it harder for people to earn. But to assist with removing the barriers where possible, create opportunities, and help communities prosper."

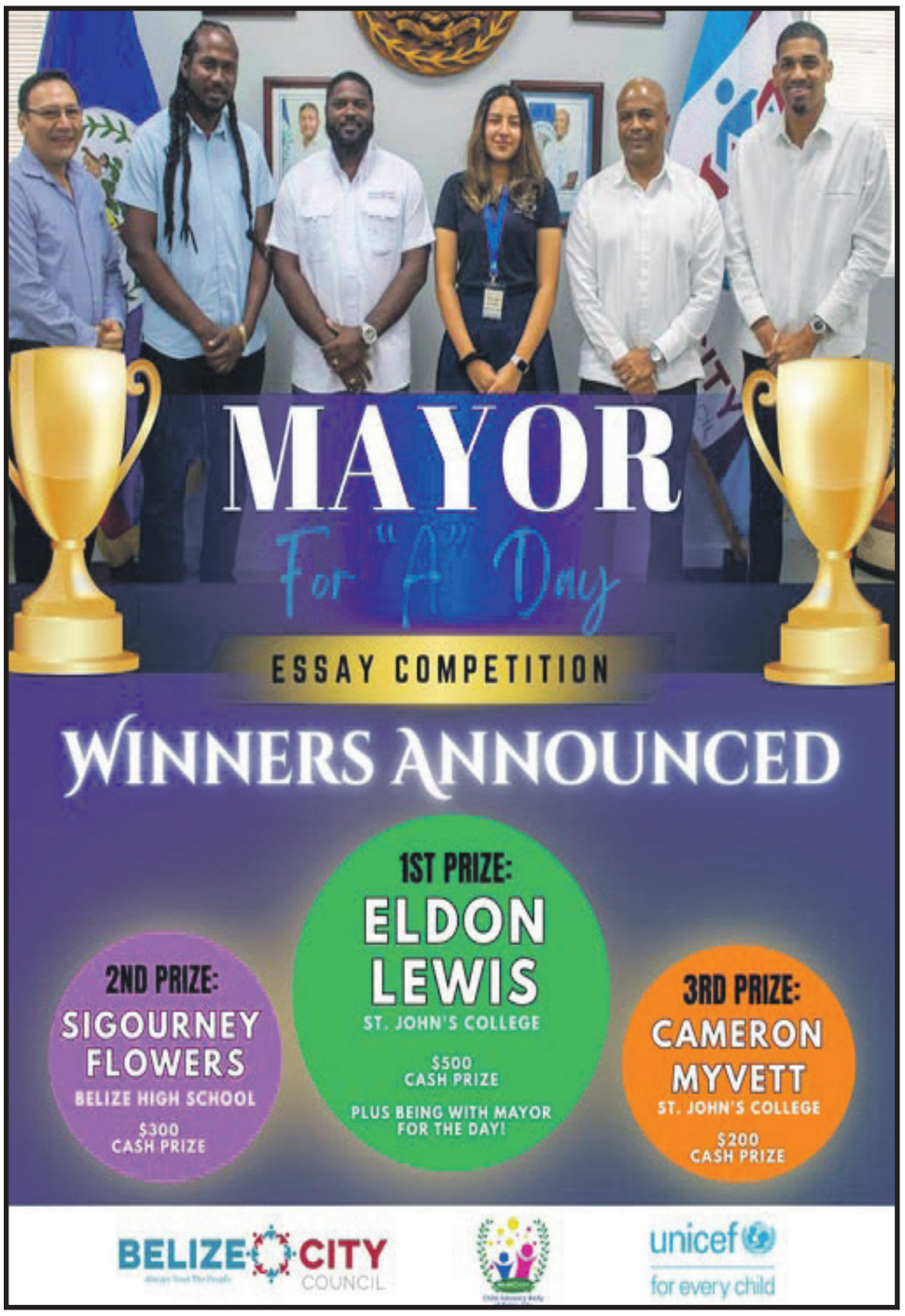
Councillor with responsibilities for markets, Evan Thompson considers it a day of celebration of people and partnership, and the outcome when the community's needs are heard and acted upon. Constructively, youths within the community are affected and positively impacted, which was reflected in Mr. Eldon Lewis's Youth Mayor for the Day address at the ceremonial groundbreaking launch of the YABRA FISH MARKET.

Mayor for a Day, Mr. Eldon Lewis, remarked that "*As a young person and a representative of the nearly 128, 000 young people who call Belize home, seeing projects like this come to life in our communities gives us more than joy; it gives us belief in what our future can be*." He continued saying. "*For many of us in Belize City, spaces like Yabra are part of our everyday lives, whether in passing or as a final stop at the end of the day. And that is why this matters*." Importantly, he commented that, revitalization is not just about physical upgrades; it is about people. It is about creating safer, more welcoming spaces where opportunity can grow. Clearly, a mission of the Mayor and the Belize City Council.

To the fisherman Mr. Brown, it is a dream come true and about economic development. Brown called on the community to assist in preserving and protecting the space that will provide an opportunity for generations to come. As Mayor Bernard Wagner pronounced, "*And the Market is only the beginning*."

As Mr. Lewis remarked, "*When we invest in these everyday places, we are shaping the environment that shapes us. We are building a city where youth and families can truly live, grow, and thrive. Because when people see care being put into their communities, we feel valued, we take pride, and we are inspired to give back*." This results in a virtuous cycle. The YABRA FISH MARKET is truly about the people.

-Fin-



Belize "Largely Compliant"

Transparency & Exchange of Information on Request Rating in Global Forum Peer Review

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 - The Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes has published Belize's latest peer review report (Second Round, In-depth Review), confirming that Belize is now rated as overall "**Largely Compliant**" with the international standard on Transparency and Exchange of Information on Request (EOIR).

This represents a significant improvement from Belize's previous "Partially Compliant" rating in 2023 and reflects the substantial reforms undertaken to strengthen both the legal and regulatory framework and its implementation in practice.

The report assesses jurisdictions across ten elements covering the availability of information, access to that information, and the effectiveness of international exchange. In this review, Belize received:

- five **Compliant** ratings,
- three **Largely Compliant** ratings, and
- two **Partially Compliant** ratings,
- resulting in the overall **Largely Compliant** outcome.

The Global Forum recognised Belize's progress in strengthening the availability of legal and beneficial ownership information, including legislative reforms and the enhancement of supervisory powers. These reforms form part of a broader modernisation of Belize's transparency framework and reflect a clear policy commitment to alignment with international standards.

At the same time, the report emphasises that continued focus is required to ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of these reforms in practice, particularly in relation to the availability of accounting information and the timely exchange of information. Belize has already taken steps in this regard, including strengthening requirements for the maintenance of accounting records within Belize and expanding supervisory oversight. These measures also reinforce the requirement that accounting information remains available to the competent authority, including in circumstances where entities cease to operate.

Belize application for a Supplementary Review in December 2023, and its subsequent engagement with the Global Forum's Peer Review and Monitoring Group (PRMG), were key to recognising the progress achieved since the 2023 assessment. A delegation

Continued on Pg. 22

NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that the following companies has been struck off the Register of Companies and dissolved with effect from the date indicated:

Name of Company	Date
WINTECH MICROELECTRONICS LTD.	22nd April, 2026
Green Equipment Inc.	22nd April, 2026
NingBo ShouTai Co., Ltd.	22nd April, 2026
EXCEL BRIGHT INC.	22nd April, 2026
Yeong Yeh Investment Co., Ltd.	22nd April, 2026
RADIANT INNOVATION (BELIZE) Inc.	24th April, 2026

GenPro Consulting (Belize) Limited
Registered Agent

GoB Launch
Improving Water Security BZ$10 million project

">1,800 residents from 330 households are set to enjoy a steady flow of clean, safe water" – Hon. Osmond Martinez

Punta Gorda Town, Belize, April 24, 2026 — The Ministry of Economic Transformation (MET), Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, and Local Government (MRT), and the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) today launched the *Securing Water Resources through Solar Energy and Innovative Adaptive Management* (SEAM) project.

Financed through the Adaptation Fund's Large Innovation funding window, this BZ$10 million project will help to improve water access in Boom Creek, Dolores, and Otoxha in the Toledo District, and Copper Bank in the Corozal District. The project will deliver innovative water security solutions in these four rural communities, with more than 1,800 people expected to directly benefit from the five-year project.

PACT will oversee the initiative while the MRT will lead its implementation across the communities. Key components include:

- Design and construction of solar-powered hybrid water systems to provide a safe and sustainable water supply to households.
- Ecosystem restoration and livelihood diversification, particularly for women, through reforestation, watershed rehabilitation, and agroforestry.
- Capacity building and governance strengthening to empower local water boards and promote equitable participation in water management.

Works are already underway in the southern villages, a testament to the Government's commitment to the project's objectives and the betterment of the communities.

Remarks were delivered by Hon. Oscar Requena, Minister of Rural Transformation, Community Development, and Local Government and area representative for Toledo West; Hon. Orlando Habet, Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Solid Waste Management; Hon. Dr. Osmond Martinez, Minister of State for Economic Transformation and area representative for Toledo East; Mr. Valentino Shal, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of Rural Transformation; and Mr. Carlos Pol, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of Economic Transformation. Also joining the government officials at the ceremony were representatives of PACT, MRT, MET, and leaders of the beneficiary communities.

The SEAM Project was approved in 2025 by the Adaptation Fund at its 45th Board Meeting in Bonn, Germany. It represents a significant milestone in Belize's ongoing efforts to strengthen climate resilience and improve access to sustainable water systems in vulnerable rural communities. The project will serve as a model for scaling integrated climate adaptation approaches in other rural areas across Belize. (release)

Continued from Pg. 21

Belize "Largely Compliant"

from the Financial Services Commission participated in discussions in Paris in March 2026, as part of this process.

"The upgrade to a Largely Compliant rating reflects the depth of reform undertaken in a relatively short period, particularly in strengthening both the legal framework governing ownership and accounting information," said Claude Haylock, Director General. **"Our focus is now on ensuring that these reforms are fully embedded in practice through strengthened supervision and enforcement. This is where the next phase of our work is clearly directed."**

Belize has already initiated further measures to address the remaining recommendations, including continued enhancements to supervisory frameworks and planned reforms to strengthen oversight across legal entities and arrangements.

The Commission reaffirms its commitment to maintaining a robust, transparent, and internationally compliant financial services framework and to continued engagement with the Global Forum under its enhanced monitoring process. (release)

About the OECD

The OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) is a forum and knowledge hub for data, analysis and best practices in public policy. We work with over 100 countries across the world to build stronger, fairer and cleaner societies – helping to shape better policies for better lives. Learn more here: https://www.oecd.org/en.html

About Global Forum

The Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes (the Global Forum) is the multilateral framework within which work in the area of tax transparency and exchange of information is carried out by over 170 jurisdictions that participate in the Global Forum on an equal footing. The Global Forum is charged with the in-depth monitoring and peer review of the implementation of the international standards of transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes (both on request and automatic).

About the FSC

The Financial Services Commission of Belize is the primary regulatory body overseeing non-bank financial services, including securities and capital markets. Its mission is to ensure a robust, fair, and transparent financial system in Belize while protecting Belizean investors and supporting the growth of the Belizean capital markets. Learn more at www.belizefsc.org.bz

LETTER TO THE Editor

A Win for Fisherfolk

Dear Editor,

The opening of the Yabra Fish Market may seem like a small development to some, but for the fisherfolk of the area, it is a long-awaited and meaningful victory.

For years, fishermen sold their daily catch along the roadside near the Yabra Bridge, exposed to the harsh sun, heavy rains, and unsafe conditions. Today, they finally have a proper space—one that offers shelter, sanitation, and dignity. As fisherman Joseph Brown described it, this moment is truly "a dream come true."

This new market represents more than just infrastructure. It is an investment in the hardworking men and women whose livelihoods depend on the sea. With organized stalls, freezer access, and improved facilities, fisherfolk can now operate in a safer, more stable environment, attracting more customers and increasing their daily earnings.

For many families in the area, fishing is not just a tradition—it is survival. This development strengthens that foundation, giving them a fair chance to grow their trade and provide for their households.

Equally important, the affordability of the space ensures that even small-scale vendors can benefit. It keeps opportunity within reach.

This is what community-focused development looks like—simple, practical, and impactful. The Yabra Fish Market stands as a reminder that when the needs of everyday people are heard and addressed, real progress is made.

Sincerely,
J Brown

LETTER TO THE Editor

Working Together on Transport Costs

Dear Editor,

The ongoing discussion surrounding bus fare adjustments must be viewed with fairness and full context. Rising fuel costs globally have placed undeniable pressure on bus operators and regular commuters, but it is equally important to recognize that my PUP Government has not stood idle during this crisis.

This is not the first time the Government has demonstrated a willingness to work with the Belize Bus Association/operators—not only with the National Bus Company, but across the wider transportation sector. From reducing excise taxes on fuel—cutting 68 cents on gasoline and $1.55 on diesel—to introducing a temporary $3 per gallon fuel subsidy, meaningful steps have been taken to ease the burden.

These measures, amounting to millions in monthly relief, were specifically designed to prevent steep fare increases for commuters. At the same time, the PUP Government has made internal sacrifices—cutting expenditures, reducing travel, and tightening its own fuel usage—to manage the broader economic strain.

The reality is that balance is required. Operators must remain viable, but the Belizean public must also be protected from sudden and unaffordable increases.

Encouragingly, there remains an open commitment to dialogue. Continued consultation between Government and operators offers a pathway forward—one that can produce practical, fair solutions.

If we maintain this spirit of cooperation, there is every reason to believe we can navigate these challenges together and emerge stronger.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth M.

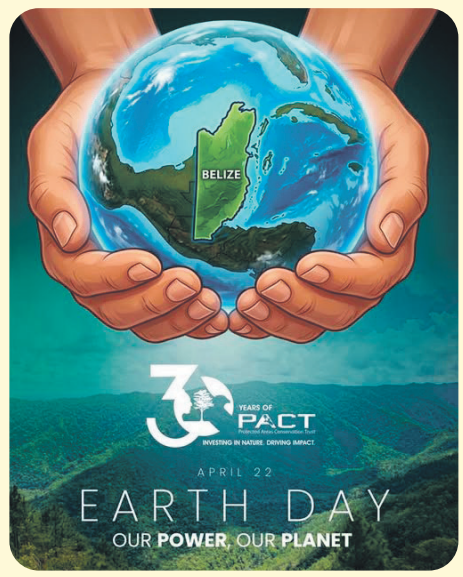
LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that **Cheryl Dixon** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Miss Joy's Shop"** located on Res. Banak Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Devontae Middleton/ Chena Middleton** are applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"D & C Grocery Shop"** located at # 71 Sunset Park, 8 ¾ Mls. G.P. Hwy., Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **71 Degrees Fahrenheit Night Club Limited** is applying for a **Night Club Liquor License** to be operated at **"71 Degrees Fahrenheit Night Club Limited"** located at Princess Int'l Belize Ltd., # 129 Newtown Barracks, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Belize Celebrates Earth Day



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